











**INDIAN RECORDS SERIES**

**FORT WILLIAM-INDIA HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS  
RELATING THERETO**

**(PUBLIC SERIES)**

**VOL. X : 1786-1788**

**EDITED BY**

**RAGHUBIR SINH**

**PUBLISHED FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA  
BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL LINES, DELHI  
1959**





Government House, Calcutta, 1788



## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

I have great pleasure in placing before the students of history and related disciplines this tenth volume in our series *Fort William-India House Correspondence*. It covers the despatches from and to the Court of Directors in the Public Department for the period 1786-88. The volume mainly deals with the commercial transactions of the East India Company. Consequently, a few letters from the Board of Trade, which was different from the Fort William Board, have been included in the Appendix as these are to be found in the original series and have a direct bearing on the subject matter of the volume. Some paragraphs relating to the Military Department from 1787 onwards occurring in these letters have been omitted, as these are being printed in a separate volume. Similarly it has not been considered advisable to include letters in the Revenue Department, except one which has been retained as it has been described as a Separate General Letter. However, the general editorial policy of maintaining the text of the letters unchanged and of making only the minimum changes necessary for the convenience of readers, has been continued.

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. C.H. Philips, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and the Surveyor General of India, Dehra Dun, the former for allowing me to make use of the photographs sent by him and the latter for permission to reproduce the portrait of Alexander Dalrymple. I am equally beholden to Mr. S. C. Sutton, retired Librarian, India Office Library and Records, London, for furnishing me with a photo-copy of one of the letters of Cornwallis.

Shri N. H. Kulkarnee, Archivist in the National Archives of India, deserves credit not only for the textual scrutiny of this volume and for seeing it through the Press but also for assistance to the learned Editor in various details. The work was supervised by Assistant Directors A. I. Tirmizi, D. L. Kaka and H. N. Mathur for varying periods while Shri P. K. Ghosh and Shri S.S. Saxena rendered assistance in preparing the exhaustive Index and in finding and selecting suitable illustrations. To all these colleagues I am grateful.

•

S. N. PRASAD  
*Director of Archives  
Government of India*

*National Archives of India,  
New Delhi*



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
General Editor's Preface .. .. .	v
Contents .. .. .	vii
List of Illustrations .. .. .	xi
President of the Board of Control, 1786-88 .. .. .	xii
Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the East India Company, 1786-88 .. .. .	xii
Directors of the East India Company, 1786-88 .. .. .	xii
Governors-General of Fort William, Bengal, 1786-88 ..	xiv
Members of Board, Fort William, Bengal, 1786-88 .. ..	xv
Governors of the Presidency of Fort St. George, 1786-88 ..	xv
Governors of the Presidency of Bombay, 1786-88 .. ..	xv
Introduction .. .. .	1

## LETTERS FROM COURT

No.

1	24 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 1-22; Vol. 30, pp. 2-12; Vol. 30A, pp. 1-14</i> )* .. .. .	53
2	8 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 23-31; Vol. 30, pp. 13-7; Vol. 30A, pp. 17-22</i> ) .. .. .	58
3	14 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 33-93; Vol. 30, pp. 19-65; Vol. 30A, pp. 23-64</i> ) .. .. .	61
4	12 April 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 95-284; Vol. 30, pp. 67-180; Vol. 30A, pp. 67-193</i> ) .. .. .	75
5	12 April 1786 ( <i>Vol. 30A, pp. 197-243</i> ) .. .. .	121
6	28 April 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 285-98; Vol. 30, pp. 181-6</i> ) ..	139
7	3 May 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, p. 299; Vol. 30, p. 187</i> ) .. ..	142
8	21 July 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 301-69; Vol. 30, pp. 189-218</i> ) ..	143
9	22 December 1786 ( <i>Vol. 29, pp. 371-410; Vol. 30, pp. 219-41; Vol. 30A, pp. 245-8</i> ) .. .. .	157
10	10 January 1787 ( <i>Vol. 30, pp. 243-5; Vol. 31, pp. 1-3</i> ) ..	166

\*All the volumes referred to here belong to the Home Public series of records.

	PAGE
11 27 March 1787 ( <i>Vol. 30, pp. 247-469; Vol. 31, pp. 5-218</i> ) ..	168
Enclosure 1 ( <i>Vol. 33, p. 67</i> ) .. .. .	241
Enclosure 2 ( <i>Vol. 33, pp. 5-27</i> ) .. .. .	241
12 8 June 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 221-2; Vol. 35, pp. 31-2</i> ) ..	252
13 31 July 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 225-89; Vol. 35, pp. 35-96</i> ) ..	253
Enclosure ( <i>Vol. 33 p. 63</i> ) .. .. .	280
14 31 July 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 291-305; Vol. 35, pp. 97-109</i> ) ..	281
15 31 July 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 307-13</i> ) .. .. .	288
16 31 July 1787 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 45, pp. 1-27</i> ) .. .. .	292
Enclosure ( <i>Vol. 33, pp. 87-8</i> ) .. .. .	307
17 7 September 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 389-90; Vol. 35, pp. 117-8</i> ) ..	309
18 21 November 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 393-4; Vol. 35, pp. 121-2</i> ) ..	309
19 21 November 1787 ( <i>Vol. 31, pp. 395-9</i> ) .. .. .	311
20 28 March 1788 ( <i>Vol. 32, pp. 1-40; Vol. 35, pp. 131-64</i> ) ..	313
Enclosure No. 1 ( <i>Vol. 33, pp. 99-100</i> ) .. .. .	328
Enclosure No. 2 ( <i>Vol. 33, pp. 101-13</i> ) .. .. .	329
21 28 March 1788 ( <i>Vol. 32, pp. 41-96</i> ) .. .. .	334
22 9 April 1788 ( <i>Vol. 32, pp. 197-8; Vol. 35, pp. 171-3</i> ) ..	358
23 9 April 1788 ( <i>Vol. 32, pp. 199-201</i> ) .. .. .	359
24 20 August 1788 ( <i>Vol. 35, pp. 187-250</i> ) .. .. .	360
Enclosure 1 ( <i>Vol. 34, pp. 101-2</i> ) .. .. .	377
Enclosure 2 ( <i>Vol. 34, pp. 67-9</i> ) .. .. .	380
Enclosure 3 ( <i>Vol. 34, pp. 147-64</i> ) .. .. .	382
25 20 August 1788 ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 162-8</i> ) .. .. .	387
26 25 September 1788 ( <i>Vol. 35, pp. 257-9</i> ) .. .. .	391

#### LETTERS TO COURT

1 24 January 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 1-2; Vol. 39, pp. 17-9</i> ) ..	395
2 6 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 5-36; Vol. 39, pp. 21-49</i> )	396
3 8 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 51-4</i> ) .. .. .	402
4 28 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 37-57; Vol. 39, pp. 55-70</i> ) ..	403

	PAGE
5 7 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 61-111; Vol. 39, pp. 71-116</i> )	408
6 25 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 115-50; Vol. 39, pp. 117-63</i> ) ..	417
7 3 July 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 153-84; Vol. 39, pp. 165-93</i> ) ..	428
8 21 August 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 187-231; Vol. 39, pp. 195-242</i> )	436
9 11 September 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 235-47; Vol. 39, pp. 243-9</i> )	448
10 18 September 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 251-4; Vol. 39, pp. 251-3</i> )	451
11 13 November 1786 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 255-82</i> ) .. .. .	452
12 29 November 1786 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 283-4</i> ) .. .. .	461
13 28 December 1786 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 255-70; Vol. 39, pp. 285-98</i> )	462
14 10 January 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 299-304</i> ) .. .. .	466
15 11 January 1787, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Obtained from the Commonwealth Office, London</i> ) .. .. .	467
16 17 January 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 305-15</i> ) .. .. .	468
17 24 January 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 316-7</i> ) .. .. .	472
18 19 February 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 318-68</i> ) .. .. .	472
19 6 March 1787 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 273-94; Vol. 39, pp. 369-82</i> ) ..	487
20 27 July 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 383-441</i> ) .. .. .	491
21 18 August 1787, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 45, pp. 134-41</i> ) .. ..	510
22 1 September 1787 ( <i>Vol. 36, pp. 297-338; Vol. 39, pp. 442-68</i> )	515
23 7 September 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 469-77</i> ) .. .. .	524
24 18 September 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 478-81</i> ) .. .. .	527
25 29 September 1787 ( <i>Vol. 39, pp. 482-4</i> ) .. .. .	529
26 16 November 1787, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 45, pp. 148-55</i> ) .. ..	530
27 15 December 1787 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 33-92</i> ) .. .. .	534
28 10 January 1788, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 1-6</i> ) .. ..	552
29 12 January 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 93-125</i> ) .. .. .	555
30 26 January 1788, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 84-5</i> ) .. ..	561
31 29 January 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 127-39</i> ) .. .. .	563
32 12 February 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 141-63</i> ) .. .. .	565
33 3 March 1788, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 86-97</i> ) .. ..	570

	PAGE
34 6 March 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 165-211</i> ) .. .. .	577
35 6 March 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 213-45</i> ) .. .. .	585
36 5 June 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 249-59</i> ) .. .. .	594
37 1 November 1788, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 292-332</i> ) ..	597
38 3 November 1788, from Lord Cornwallis ( <i>Copies of Records obtained from the India Office, Vol. 46, pp. 340-55</i> ) .. ..	620
39 6 November 1788 ( <i>Vol. 40, pp. 261-444</i> ) .. .. .	630
40 22 December 1788 ( <i>Vol. 41, pp. 1-28; Vol. 42, pp. 13-46</i> ) ..	672

## APPENDIX

### Letters from the Board of Trade to the Court of Directors

I 7 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 38, pp. 1-7</i> ) .. .. .	681
II 24 February 1786 ( <i>Vol. 38, pp. 9-16</i> ) .. .. .	684
III 7 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 38, pp. 17-26</i> ) .. .. .	688
IV 18 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 38, pp. 29-43</i> ) .. .. .	693
V 25 March 1786 ( <i>Vol. 38, pp. 44-6</i> ) .. .. .	698

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<p>Government House, Calcutta .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(From a painting by T. Daniell)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>By the courtesy of Prof. C.H. Philips, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.</i></p>	<p>Frontispiece</p>
	Facing page
<p>Chart showing the trade symbols of the East India Company used in the correspondence .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(Prepared by Mr. P.L. Madan from the original in the National Archives of India)</i></p>	<p>102</p>
<p>Buddhist Monastery at Bhot Bagan in Howrah .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(Reproduced from Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Vol. LIX, Pt. I, No. 1, 1890)</i> .. .. .</p>	<p>214</p>
<p>Map of Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(Reproduced from Records of the Botanical Survey of India, Vol. V, No. 1)</i></p>	<p>259</p>
<p>Alexander Dalrymple .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(Reproduced from Historical Records of the Survey of India, Vol. I by Col. R. H. Phillimore).</i></p>	<p>290</p>
<p>Writers' Building and the Old Court House .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(From a painting by Daniells)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>By the courtesy of Prof. C.H. Philips, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.</i></p>	<p>327</p>
<p>Facsimile of a section bearing the signatures of the Court of Directors .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(From the original in the National Archives of India)</i></p>	<p>360</p>
<p>The Marquess of Cornwallis (with signature) .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>By the courtesy of Prof. C.H. Philips, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.</i></p>	<p>451</p>
<p>The River Face of the Old Fort .. .. .</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>(From a painting by T. Daniell)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>By the courtesy of Prof. C.H. Philips, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.</i></p>	<p>573</p>



# PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL<sup>1</sup>

1786-88

*Date of Letters  
Patent*

Rt. Hon. Baron Sydney (later Viscount Sydney)

4 Sept. 1784

## CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY<sup>2</sup>

1786-88

<i>Period</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
April 1785-March 1786	Devaynes, William	Smith, Nathaniel
April 1786-March 1787	Michie, John	Motteux, John
April 1787-March 1788	Motteux, John	Smith, Nathaniel
March 1788-April 1789	Devaynes, William	Lushington, Stephen

## DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY<sup>3</sup>

1786-88

Baring, Francis	.. .. .	1779-82, 1784-7, 1789-92, 1794-7, 1799-1802, 1804-7, 1809-10.
Bensley, William	.. .. .	Oct. 1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-4, 1806-9.
Boehm, Edmund	.. .. .	1784-7.
Bosanquet, Jacob	.. .. .	Aug. 1782-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-8, 1800-3, 1805-8, 1810-3, 1815-8, 1820-3, 1825-6.
Burgess, John Smith	.. .. .	1773-4, 1776-9, 1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-3.

<sup>1</sup> The particulars given here and in the lists that follow are based on: *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885)<sup>a</sup> compiled by Charles C. Prinsep; *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858*, compiled by C. H. & D. Phillips and Published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October 1941; and *List of the Heads of Administration in India and of the India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939).

<sup>2</sup> Normally appointed each April.

<sup>3</sup> At each election in April, six Directors were chosen for four years in the place of six going out by rotation. In the event of death or retirement of a Director his successor took over the unexpired term of office. In this list the figures indicate the years of election.

Cheap, Thomas	..	..	..	..	Aug. 1777-8, 1780-3, 1785-8, 1790-3.
Cuming, George	..	..	..	..	1764-7, 1769-72, Dec. 1773-7, 1779-82, 1785-7.
Darell, Lionel	..	..	..	..	1780-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-8, 1800-3.
Devaynes, William	..	..	..	..	1770-5, 1777-80, 1782-5, 1787-90, 1792-5, 1797-1800, 1802-5.
Elphinstone, Hon. William Fullarton	..			..	Dec. 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-4, 1806-9, 1811-4, 1816-9, 1821-4.
Fitzhugh, Thomas	..	..	..	..	Aug. 1785, 1787-90, 1792-5, 1797-9.
Hall, Richard	..	..	..	..	1773-4, 1776-9, 1781-4, 1786- (died Dec. 1786).
Hunter, John	..	..	..	..	1781-4, 1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-2.
Inglis, Hugh..	..	..	..	..	1784-7, 1789-92, 1794-7, 1799-1802, 1804-7, 1809-12.
Johnstone, George	..	..	..	..	Dec. 1783, (died 1786).
Lemesurier, Paul	..	..	..	..	1784-7, 1789-92, 1794-7, 1799-1802, 1804-5.
Lushington, Stephen	..	..	..	..	1782-5, 1787-90, 1792-5, 1797-1800, 1802-5.
Manship, John	..	..	..	..	1755-8, 1762-5, 1767-9, 1770-2, Dec. 1773-7, 1779-82, 1784-7, 1789-92, 1794-7, 1799-1802, 1804-7, 1809.
Michie, John	..	..	..	..	1770-5, 1777-80, 1783-6, 1788.
Mills, Charles (Senior)	..	..	•	..	Aug. 1785-6, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801, 1803-6, 1808-11, 1813-4, (disqualified 1815).
Moffat, James	..	..	..	..	1774-7, 1779-82, Dec. 1784-5, 1787-90.
Motteux, John	..	..	..	..	1769, 1784-7.
Parry, Thomas	..	..	..	..	Oct. 1781, 1783-6, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801, 1803-6.

Pattle, Thomas	..	..	..	..	1787, 1792, (disqualified April 1795).
Robarts, Abraham	..	..	..	..	March 1786, 1786, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801, 1803-6, 1808-11, 1813-5.
Roberts, John	..	..	..	..	1764-7, 1769-72, 1775-8, Nov. 1780-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-8, 1800-3, 1805-8.
Scott, David (1)	..	..	..	..	1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801, (disqualified 1802).
Smith, John	..	..	..	..	See Burgess, John Smith.
Smith, Nathaniel	..	..	..	..	1774-5, 1777-80, 1782-5, 1787-90, 1792-4.
Smith, Samuel	..	..	..	..	1783-86 (disqualified July 1786)
Sparkes, Joseph	..	..	..	..	1773-4, 1776-9, 1781-4. 1786-9.
Tatem, George	..	..	..	..	1772-4, 1776-9, 1781-4, July 1786, 1788-91, 1793-6, 1798-1801.
Thornton, Robert	..	..	..	..	Dec. 1787, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, (disqualified 1813).
Townson, John	..	..	..	..	March 1781, 1781-3, 1785-8, 1790-3, 1795-6.
Travers, John	..	..	..	..	1786-9, 1791-4, 1796-9, 1801-4, 1806-9.
Woodhouse, John	..	..	..	..	1768-71, 1773-6, 1778-81, Jan. 1784-6, 1788-90 (disqualified Feb. 1791).

•  
GOVERNORS-GENERAL OF FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL  
1786-88

Macpherson, John	..	..	..	..	8 February 1785—12 September 1786 ( <i>Acting</i> ).
(later Sir)					
Earl Cornwallis	..	..	..	..	12 September 1786—10 October 1793.
(later Marquess)					

# MEMBERS OF BOARD, FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL

## 1786-88

Macpherson, John .. .. .	1 October 1781—8 February 1785; 12 September 1786—17 January 1787
(later Sir)	
Stables, John .. .. .	11 November 1782—19 January 1787.
Stuart, Hon. Charles .. .. .	28 February 1785—21 January 1793.
Sloper, Lt. Gen. Robert .. .. .	21 July 1785—12 September 1786.
( <i>Commander-in-Chief</i> )	
Shore, John .. .. .	22 January 1787—14 December 1789.
(later Sir)	

# GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE

## 1786-88

Davidson, Alexander .. .. .	14 June 1785—6 April 1786 ( <i>Acting</i> )
Campbell, Maj.Gen. Sir Archibald ..	6 April 1786—6 February 1789.
( <i>also Commander-in-Chief</i> )	

# GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

## 1786-88

Boddam, Rawson Hart .. .. .	1 January 1784—9 January 1788
Ramsay, A. .. .. .	9 January 1788—16 September 1788 ( <i>Acting</i> )
Medows, Maj.-Gen. William .. .. .	16 September 1788—21 January 1790.
( <i>also Commander-in-Chief</i> )	

## INTRODUCTION

This volume comprises the Fort William—India House Correspondence for the years 1786-1788, but in fact it begins with the acknowledgement of letters written and despatched earlier. Similarly it does not necessarily deal with all the events or instructions issued till the end of the year 1788. In their early letters of 1786 the Court of Directors answered the despatches from India dated December 1784 or January 1785, and even discussed the proceedings from India for the latter half of 1783. Their last letter in this volume is dated 25 September 1788 but they have answered letters from Bengal upto 6 March 1787 only. During the three years covered by this volume the Fort William Board too attended to the instructions received from the Court in their letters from 15 September 1785 upto 9 April 1788. Along with their last letter dated 22 December 1788 the Fort William Board forwarded to the Court their proceedings upto the end of November 1788 along with a treasury statement of that date, but the reports of the events in the upcountry places or distant Residencies could not possibly be up-to-date by any means.

One important reason for this delay in mutual correspondence was that after the passing of the Pitt's India Act of 1784, the system of preparing in England, a despatch for India, became very involved; sometimes it took well-nigh over nine months before any reply was sent. Another was the very slow means of communication whether by land or sea. Voyages round the Cape to India in the 18th century took anything like three to eight months. To overcome such delay which could lead to anomalous situation Lord Cornwallis gave it as his 'decided opinion' that letters should be so sent that they would be received in January as well as August of the same year both by the Court of Directors and by the Fort William Board. He thought that the extra expense involved in fitting out such additional packets would be worthwhile.<sup>1</sup> But the Court was reluctant to spend more money on this account. They did not want to send despatches by special packets unless absolutely necessary and really urgent. Their attempt was to reply immediately by the very ship which brought the letters.<sup>2</sup> Needless to say they did not succeed. But if the Fort William Board felt the urgent necessity of fitting out special packets the Court laid down that the officers of such ships should be recruited from the regular packet service, with previous experience of at least one to and fro voyage of India or China and that they should be above the age of 25 years. The services of those with free mariners' licenses were to be used only when qualified personnel was not available.<sup>3</sup>

1. LTC, 3 Nov. 1788, para 35. The abbreviations LTC and LFC have been used here and in the following footnotes to indicate Letter to Court and Letter from Court respectively.

2. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 2.

3. LFC, 31 July 1787, para 5.

Besides the Cape route there was an overland route across West Asia via Istambul (Constantinople), Aleppo, Baghdad and Basra much in use in the 17th century. The British agents at these places continued to safeguard it faithfully during the 18th century as well. "To these obscure men should go the credit for maintaining steady and uninterrupted overland communication with India during the years of which we write, for it was they who sometimes risked their lives and their purses to see to it that the Company's packets which were regularly dispatched to the banking house of the Freres Smitmer in Vienna arrived safely in Bombay."<sup>4</sup> But receiving or sending despatches by this overland route was 'tedious and uncertain'<sup>5</sup>. It was expensive as well. The Fort William Board suggested payment of £ 300 during peace-time and £ 500 during war for this service. They also requested that the Court should settle in advance the amount to be paid.<sup>6</sup> The Company's principal servants in India were also permitted to send their private letters along with official despatches. The Court urged that this facility be used sparingly as they had to incur additional expenditure on that account.<sup>7</sup>

Another route for dispatching letters was across Egypt, via Alexandria, Cairo and Suez. But it was more risky than the regular overland route across West Asia. Travelling across the Red Sea coast was treacherous and the danger of being robbed by Bedouin tribes in the Egyptian desert was considerable.<sup>8</sup> However, through the persistent efforts of George Baldwin for a regular service of this 'Suez Packet' a plan was drawn up in 1787 with the approval of His Majesty's Postmaster General. The Bengal Government was asked to send a small armed cruiser to Suez so as to reach there by 30th November every year via Madras and Bombay. The Court would send its own cruiser with dispatches before 10th June so that it could return by 10th August, and dispatches would be exchanged through Baldwin who had been appointed at Cairo in 1786 as the British Consul General. Private letters were also permitted in separate packets, but all of them were to be sent in soldered tin-boxes as cloth parcels were subject to quarantine. No goods were to be loaded on the cruiser. Baldwin arrived in Egypt in January 1787 and appointed as his agents an Egyptian at Suez and a German at Alexandria. But the whole plan proved abortive on account of the unsettled condition of Egypt then.<sup>9</sup> The plan was not realized during Baldwin's lifetime.

It should be specifically pointed out here that these despatches from and to the Court in a given period by themselves rarely give a complete picture of any particular aspect of the Company's doings in India or elsewhere. To get a full story they have to be largely supplemented by the Proceedings of the Board in various departments and other relevant sources. All the same for the understanding

4. Holden Furber, *John Company at Work*, p. 342.

5. LTC, 3 Nov. 1788, para 35.

6. LTC, 7 Mar. 1786, paras 40-1.

7. LFC, 24 Feb. 1786, para 25.

8. *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vol. X, p. 211.

9. LFC, 31 July 1787, paras 188-97, 203.

of the policies of the Home authorities and the views of the Court of Directors this correspondence constitutes an invaluable source-material. A careful study of these letters provides glimpses of various aspects of the Company's rule, which are essential to have a total picture. An attempt is made here to gather some of these glimpses to provide a framework for further study and fuller research.

The three years covered by this volume can well be described as a period of remedy and seed time. The Pitt's India Act of 1784 had been passed and duly become effective. But it was yet to be fully implemented. John Macpherson, the senior member of the Fort William Board, had been officiating Governor General of Bengal from 8 February 1785. Lord Cornwallis had declined the Governor Generalship under the Act while it was still under consideration in the Parliament. Lord Macartney, the Governor of Madras suspended by the Fort William Board, had been appointed the Governor General under the Act as the man on the spot to take up the reins of office, but he too had declined the appointment and was on his way to England. Thus the search for a suitable Governor General of Bengal, to be appointed under the Act, was still on in England when the year 1786 began. The machinery for the Home Government, developed by the Act, was still to be tried and to be further suitably evolved so as to bring about the necessary understanding and working arrangements between the Board of Control and the Court of Directors to enable it to run smoothly.

So far as the happenings and policies in India are concerned these three years naturally fall into two distinct but unequal divisions. The first one is a short one less than nine months when John Macpherson continued to act as the Governor General of Bengal. The second begins on 12 September 1786, when Lord Cornwallis ultimately agreeing to head the Bengal Government assumed the office of Governor General in Calcutta and continues till the end of the year 1788, when this volume closes.

### *John Macpherson as the Acting Governor General*

During the brief period of his Governor-Generalship, Macpherson effected retrenchment in the civil and military establishments in India, and carried out some important changes in the administration of Bengal in accordance with the directions of the Court. Soon after becoming the Governor General he took up the plan of retrenchment as originally laid down by Warren Hastings prior to his resignation. By October 1785 he received specific detailed instructions for the same from the Court of Directors through their letter of 11 April 1785.<sup>10</sup> Though he tried to implement these instructions regarding measures of economy, it may be noted that the Bengal Government was unable to show a surplus as it had to supply funds to other Residencies and the settlement in China, pay off arrears to civil and military officers and give interest on numerous loans contracted during the recent wars, besides providing for investment.<sup>11</sup>

10. *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. IX, pp. 204-26.

11. LTC, 21 Aug. 1786, para 19.

Macpherson had also to take up the reorganisation of the administrative set-up of the Bengal Presidency in accordance with the instructions communicated by the Court in their letter of 21 September 1785. The Board of Trade as well as the Board of Revenue, were reorganised and the Military Board was also constituted by June 1786.<sup>12</sup>

But neither a change in the administrative set-up nor bringing down the salary bill to 1776 level could be of much avail so long as the Company's servants continued to make illicit gains at the expense of the Company. Macpherson himself was not above the average type of the Company's servants in their worst epoch. As Lord Cornwallis wrote to Dundas, "I depend on your secrecy, and will not conceal from you that the late Government (Sir John Macpherson's) had no authority, and the grossest frauds were daily committed before their faces; their whole conduct, and all their pretensions to economy, except in the reduction of salaries, was a scene of delusions."<sup>13</sup> Sir John Shore's strictures on Macpherson's administration are equally adverse, "In private life, he (Macpherson) is a good humoured, affable and obliging man, with many qualities calculated to acquire esteem. Notwithstanding this, I do declare that I have not heard one person speak of his public conduct without contempt and indignation... Never was any administration so thoroughly despicable as his: a total want of energy, dignity, and common sense distinguish it. Evasion was substituted for decision, caution and hesitation instead of action."<sup>14</sup>

#### - Lord Cornwallis and the Amendments to the Act of 1784

Lord Cornwallis had previously more than once declined to accept singly the high offices of the Governor-General or the Commander-in-Chief in India. But when in February 1786, he was once again pressed to go to India "with the circumstance of the Governor General's being independent of his council, as intended in Dundas's former Bill, and having the supreme command of the military",<sup>15</sup> he accepted the new assignment and proceeded to India early in May 1786. The amendment to the Act of 1784 investing the Governor-General with veto power and enabling him to combine with his office supreme military command was agreed to by the Parliament soon thereafter. This amendment also limited the nomination to the vacancies in India to the Company's employees on the spot and prescribed terms of service as the minima for offices carrying more than certain rates of pay. This greatly restricted not only the exercise of patronage by home authorities but also the exodus of adventurers with powerful connections in England seeking higher jobs in India. Later during the year 1786 some more amending acts followed, which repealed the provisions making the approbation of the King necessary

12. *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. IX, pp. 254-78; LTC, 3 July 1786, paras 16-9.

13. Charles Ross, *Correspondence of Charles, First Marquis Cornwallis*, Vol. I, p. 238.

14. Teignmouth, Lord, *Memoir of the Life and Correspondence of John Lord Teignmouth*, Vol. 2, pp. 128-9.

15. Ross, *op. cit.*, I, 215.

the choice of a Governor-General, and annulled the provision regarding the necessary disclosure of the individual property acquired in India while serving there.<sup>16</sup>

So far as the political institutions went, the Act of 1784 and the amending acts of 1786, had defined the outlines of the Anglo-Indian constitution, which though developed by subsequent legislation was not fundamentally altered so long as the Company continued to exist. However, a good many changes took place in the actual detailed working of the institutions then set up in England. The Board of Control rapidly lost its powers, which were now being concentrated in the hands of its President, Henry Dundas, who had been the moving spirit in Indian affairs since many years past and who almost invariably took a high hand with the Court of Directors.<sup>17</sup>

### *Lord Cornwallis's task in India and the Nature of the Correspondence*

Lord Cornwallis landed at Fort William on 12 September 1786 and that very day he assumed the charge of his high offices. For the first time an English nobleman of high rank and high character who had little knowledge and no experience of the Indian affairs had come to Bengal. As such he brought a fresh mind to his new assignment having no regard at all for the past traditions or current usages in the Presidency. He was not at all a brilliant man and as literary compositions his despatches compare very unfavourably with those of either Warren Hastings or Wellesley. But his standard of uprightness in financial matters was exceptionally high and he seems to have been without personal ambition. His refusal to make any promises even to his best friends in England was already well known in Calcutta. The probity and disinterestedness of his conduct were thus most apparent.

Lord Cornwallis was practically the first Governor General under the Act of 1784, and as such immediately after his arrival in India he set to work sincerely and steadfastly for the early fulfilment of the chief aims of the Act of 1784. The Correspondence under study, however, deals chiefly with the task set to him by the Court of Directors, which was no less important and all the more vital to them, viz. to promote profit-making trade to enable them to pay good dividends to stock-holders. To carry out this task Cornwallis had to decide upon the method by which the Company should buy its goods in Bengal for export and sale in London. The chief articles to be purchased, technically known as 'investment' were cloth and piecegoods, raw silk, indigo, saltpetre, opium and a few other minor items. The Court had also urged Cornwallis to establish and improve trade with Assam, Oudh, Tibet and China. But before he could adopt measures to make the Company's commerce profitable he had to improve the machinery through which his tasks were to be carried out. These despatches tell us, albeit partially, how Cornwallis accomplished his objects in respect of the Company's trade. They also deal with such subjects as salt manufacture which was a monopoly of the Company, administration at Fort Marlborough which had

16. 26 Geo. III. c. 16, & 25, s. 37.

17. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. V, (1922), p. 343.

been reduced to a Residency under the Fort William Presidency, the *zamindari* of Benares wherein the Company had taken on increasing responsibility and the island of Penang which the Company acquired during Cornwallis's Governor-Generalship. One can also gather some information about miscellaneous topics like the condition of Calcutta police, the development of Diamond Harbour, the beginning of the Botanical Garden near Calcutta and the encouragement given by the Court of Directors as well as the Fort William Board to humanities and sciences.

### *Corruption in Commercial Department*

Cornwallis was well aware that the government he was called upon to preside over was not only 'corrupt and full of abuse' but was actually 'a system of the dirtiest jobbing'. In the late eighteenth century there was no dearth of individuals who came to India generally with the sole purpose of shaking the proverbial pagoda tree, of amassing quick fortunes and returning to Europe as 'Nabobs'. Insolvent debtors, desperate gamblers and black sheep from noble families looked upon India as a country where they could make good and build up new careers. Ambitious adventurers and fortune hunters of every description sought service in the East India Company or licenses to trade in the East Indies on their own account. With a vigour characteristic of imperialistic expansion everywhere, they pursued, with single-minded devotion, the path of private gain at the expense of the Company. No wonder then, if Cornwallis on his arrival in India, found corruption rampant in every department. Particularly the Commercial Department offered plenty of opportunities for profiteering.

Ever since the institution of the Board of Trade at Calcutta in 1774, it was the custom to procure the Company's investment, through European and Indian contractors. But over the years there was a steady decline in both the quality and quantity of homeward cargoes. The reasons were obvious. The Company's servants in the Commercial Department were entering into collusive contracts; the choicest goods were reserved for their private trade; contractors cheated the Company with impunity, because those who were supposed to check these fraudulent proceedings were themselves deeply involved in them. They were extracting a share of the contractors' profits, and therefore came forth to defend them whenever protests were made. At the same time the servants of the Company themselves were making very good profits on goods sent to Europe on their own account. The Company's interests were sacrificed to private emoluments.

Quite a portion of this correspondence is taken up by the bitter complaints of the Court of Directors against the corrupt conduct of their commercial servants. There was not a single article of export in which the Company was not being cheated in one manner or other. The Company suffered losses practically in every kind of goods owing to the interested negligence of their servants.

In respect of raw silk it came to the Court's knowledge that grossest frauds were being imposed upon them. At the London sales in March 1785 the Company's silk sold at a maximum price of 25s. 2d. per lb. while private silk fetched 34s. 10d.<sup>18</sup> The Court had already ordered an enquiry into the cost-price structure of raw silk, as even earlier the silk which should have netted them 2s. 10d. per current rupee was fetching only 1s. 1d. But in spite of repeated instructions the Board sent no report for two years, as they were conscious of their own guilt. The Court obtained their information through other channels and then learnt of the "fraudulent and collusive manner in which the (raw silk) contracts have been entered into between the members of our Board of Trade and the original contractors with the inferior prices at which in many instances those contracts were afterwards executed by agents under contractors." When the Court commented upon the bad quality of silk and held their servants responsible they received the insulting reply that it was only prejudice and error on the part of the Directors. Repeatedly pressed by them, however, the Board ultimately took up the enquiry into the cost-price of raw silk. But it was entrusted not to experienced, capable servants of whom there were many but to James Frushard who was comparatively new to the business. The object was clear: the Directors were not to be benefited by the knowledge and experience of such servants. Even Frushard's report revealed that contractors were being allowed a net profit of nearly 86%.<sup>19</sup>

The saltpetre warehouses were another sink of corruption. For eight years no accounts of saltpetre had been kept. When they were prepared a deficiency of 14,772 maunds was written off. Normally such deficiencies amounted to only 1% of the whole quantity delivered. But in this case it was 11 1/3%, amounting to a loss of more than 75,000 *sikka* Rupees. There was every reason to suspect that considerable quantities of sweepings were privately being sold by the Company's servants and later shown as deficiency. In 1785 about 7 tons of what was supposed to be saltpetre arrived in London but on examination it was found to be little better than dirt. In spite of complaints 483 bags of similar rubbish were again despatched a little later. The bags themselves were so rotten that they fell to pieces the moment they came to be removed and this despite an increase of 4 as. per bag in their price. Even the so-called refined saltpetre sent by the Board, when analysed by chemists, was found to be only 4% better than the unrefined rubbish. Two thousand bags of this refined variety, therefore, remained unsold. The Company had spent 40,000 current rupees more for procuring this unsaleable saltpetre, while the contractor who had offered to refine it, the Resident at Patna, had made a profit of about 1 lakh rupees.<sup>20</sup>

For some years past there had been a general increase in the cost of embalming, sloop hire, cooly hire, bags, not only in the article of saltpetre but piecegoods and other articles as well. No reasons were

18. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 112.

19. LFC, 27 April 1787, paras 291-3.

20. *Ibid.*, paras 123-4. 239-42.

assigned for the increased cost.<sup>21</sup> When the Court complained about bad packing and deficiencies in lengths and breadths of piecegoods, the Export-Warehouse-Keeper blamed the Commercial Residents and the Board of Trade accepted his explanation. But in reality these shortcomings were in goods coming directly under the supervision of the Export-Warehouse-Keeper. Not only the Board tried to protect its officials but "when we see the Board of Trade, upon every occasion of an expected deficiency on the part of the contractors, standing forth the advocates of those whose conduct they are appointed to watch over and control, we bring all our conjectures into one point, and ascertain the grand cause of our disappointment to primarily in a confederate and corrupt system of management", declared the Court.<sup>22</sup>

Corrupt practices extended to weights and measures as well. A factory seer was equal to *sikka* Rs. 72-11as.-7 pies but for convenience of speech, to distinguish it from the bazar seer of 80 *sikkas*, it was termed as a seer of 72 *sikkas*. Contractors took advantage of this loose use, demanded, and were unhesitatingly granted, the difference thus resulting in a loss to the Company of one pound per every hundred weight. In valuable articles like raw silk and indigo and possibly in every other article the Company was thus losing between one and two thousand pounds sterling per annum, "without any one person in our service having zeal, honesty or discernment enough to discover it." Again accounts were stated in Arcot rupees in deliveries made in bazar maunds and in current rupees for factory maunds. But the Board of Trade had started paying in *sikka* rupees for factory maunds, thus resulting in a profit of nearly 17% to the contractor through sheer difference in the rate of discount.<sup>23</sup>

Even with this debased quality of goods, short of weight and purchased at a price profitable to the contractor and not to the Company, the Board of Trade failed to complete the homeward cargoes in accordance with the requisitions. The Court of Directors were expecting an investment of at least Rs. 94 lakhs, but what they received amounted only to Rs. 66 lakhs. One of their ships had been loaded with private merchandize whilst goods valued at over Rs. 19 lakhs belonging to the Company were left in the export warehouse at the very time of the ship's departure from the Hooghly. In July 1786 the Board of Trade had asked from the Fort William Board Rs. 33 lakhs for loading 7 ships at Rs. 13½ lakhs worth of goods each, but actually sent only 6 ships loaded with only goods worth Rs. 11 lakhs each. The lame excuse for this shortage was delay of 5 days in issue of notes by the Fort William Board. The latter Board was not entirely blameless either. They had repeatedly refused to issue bills of exchange for procuring the Company's investment, presumably owing to financial stringency, but did not hesitate for a moment to issue a bill of Rs. 60,000 to a member of the Board of Trade, whose conduct they had disapproved, merely to enable him to proceed to Europe

21. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 112.

22. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 275, 253-4.

23. *Ibid.*, paras 267-71.

for settling his private affairs. And this fact was never recorded in any letters to the Court.<sup>24</sup>

It was patently obvious that the Company's servants had been systematically and deliberately sacrificing the interests of their employers in order to enrich themselves. Cotton yarn sent home privately sold on an average for 11s. 8½d. per lb., while the Company's yarn fetched but 1s. 9d. per lb. In March 1786 its quality was so bad as to make nearly the whole unsaleable. In the September sale in 1785 the Company's shellac fetched £45s. per cwt. whilst that in private average £8 2s. 6d. and in the March sales of 1786 the whole of the Company's shellac was rejected owing to its poor quality.<sup>25</sup> Instances could be multiplied. The Court declared in their letter dated 27 March 1787, "We have been informed that persons high in our service, and who have been thought worthy of the most confidential situations, notwithstanding those flattering marks of our favour, suffered themselves so far ungratefully to forget their duty to us, as to enter into commercial connections, the most beneficial [sic] possible to our interests; we mean in illicitly remitting to Copenhagen, L'Orient, and other different parts of Europe, the choicest selection of the most valuable and profitable articles that the country affords. We had pointed out to us by name, persons lately in our service and some now remaining therein, whose remittances of this nature have turned out to them as far as 3s. 9d. the rupee while our own cargoes, from the defect in their quality, the badness of their purchase, and again from our being so effectually shut out of the Foreign markets, scarcely net us the rupee at par".<sup>26</sup>

#### *Action Against Guilty Servants*

The Court of Directors were not going to accept all this corrupt conduct lying down. They wanted the guilty servants to disgorge their ill-gotten gains. In their letter dated 12th April 1786 they informed that the Secret Committee of the Court was investigating the gross misconduct of the Board of Trade and as a result suits might have to be filed in the courts of law against certain servants.<sup>27</sup> In fact Cornwallis was called upon to cleanse the Augean stable. In their secret instructions the Court ordered him at once: (a) to institute a searching inquiry into the recent conduct of their employees (b) to file Bills in Equity against all guilty persons whether they be past or present Members of the Board of Trade, the contractors in raw silk or the chiefs of the subordinate factories in the mofussil, and (c) to suspend all such offenders from the service. If the Supreme Court made out decrees against the defendants they were to be compelled to refund all their unauthorised perquisites and to return to England within 12 months. In their subsequent letter dated 21 July 1786 the Directors stated that they had already instituted legal proceedings against the members of the late Board of Trade and the contractors, who were then in England, and that they

24. LFC, 27 Mar. 1786, paras 247-56.

25. LFC, 12 April 1786, paras 112-3.

26. Para 245.

27. Para 145.

proposed to take similar action in respect of all other parties concerned. With special reference to raw silk contracts they wrote, "We have such strong reasons for believing that scandalous and corrupt practices have prevailed in the provision of this branch of our Investment (and which also leads us to suspect the like in every other branch) that we are determined to obtain for ourselves the most ample redress by an appeal to the laws of our country in order to bring the delinquent to that punishment which offences of so atrocious a nature so loudly call for".<sup>28</sup> In their letter dated 27th March 1787 they went a step further. On the basis of the evidence of servants who were already being prosecuted they ordered the dismissal of active members of the late Board of Trade who had been in office in January 1784. They mentioned a list of servants against whom enquiry was to be conducted and authorised the Governor-General to add to that list.<sup>29</sup>

However, these brave resolutions of the Court in dealing with their corrupt servants, started with a bang but ended in a whimper. Dismissal was within the Court's powers but legal redress was not so easy. To start prosecutions was one thing, to secure convictions quite another. In accordance with the Court's instructions, Cornwallis conducted enquiries, but collecting evidence, that could stand in a court of law, was a tough task. And Cornwallis was fully aware of the difficulties. "The customs and prejudices of the natives," he said, "render it difficult in such cases to obtain information from them; and the combination of those servants that have been concerned in such iniquitous transactions may throw insuperable obstacles in the way of investigation into past abuses."<sup>30</sup> On the basis of such evidence as could be collected the Company's Advocate General was instructed to file Bills in Equity against those members of the Board who were in India in February 1787.<sup>31</sup> The results obtained were only moderately successful. Among those who were prosecuted, the Bills against Nathaniel Bateman, Thomas Henchman and John Sumner had to be dropped.<sup>32</sup> Jacob Rider and Jacob Blaquiere offered to make restitution and were recommended to be restored to service.<sup>33</sup> Only against William Barton who was very deeply involved, the Company could take worthwhile action. He fled to the Danish settlement at Serampore and his property was confiscated.<sup>34</sup> James English Keighley furnished security so that he could embark for England where his case was transferred to the Chancery.<sup>35</sup>

The cases in the Court of Chancery in England met with no better success. A contemporary observer remarked that 'suits upon suits were instituted in which unfortunately the innocent have been blended with the guilty and some of the most egregious plunderers

28. Para 44.

29. Paras 342-8.

30. Ross, *op. cit.*, I, p. 244.

31. LTC, 19 Feb. 1787, para 28.

32. LTC, 27 July 1787, paras 42-6; 29 Jan. 1788, para 24; *Memoirs of William Hickey*, (5th edition), Vol. III, p. 310.

33. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 296-7; Home Public Proceedings, 1 April 1789 and 6 July 1789.

34. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 283.

35. Home Public Proceedings, 26 Jan. 1789.

have remained unnoticed".<sup>36</sup> But even in the case of those 'plunderers' who were 'noticed' it was difficult to have their guilt established. The filing of pleas and counter-pleas and depositions to be taken from witnesses in India, many of whom had disappeared or died, meant inordinate delay. A few suits which were successful resulted in awards which hardly equalled their legal costs. Many were, therefore allowed to lapse. In reporting on the suits which were still alive in 1793 the Company's Solicitor pointed out how all of them were hopelessly tangled up in a web of legal subterfuges and advised that they be written off.<sup>37</sup>

This sordid story of corruption and law-suits that looks like mockery of justice has another aspect which must not be lost sight of while applying the standards of the modern age to the conduct of the Company's servants, and especially to the members of the Board of Trade. Perquisites, private profits and commissions on contracts and revenues were very much a part of emoluments of a servant of the Company in the late eighteenth century, prior to the arrival of Cornwallis. And the Court of Directors not only connived at it, but actually encouraged the system by paying pitiful salaries on which the servants neither did nor could live. In fact Cornwallis had to buy the honesty of the servants by granting them generous salaries. Even honest and scrupulous members of the Board of Trade never felt that there was anything wrong in accepting commissions from contractors. These were regarded as perquisites attached to their offices. The Company had been procuring their investment through commercial residents who also served as contractors. Later on such servants were promoted as members of the Board of Trade. Paradoxically enough these promotions resulted in dwindling emoluments. As William Hickey, the contemporary writer of memoirs, informs us, "men were called from situations of immense emolument to take their seats at the Board of Trade where the avowed allowance was the comparatively pitiful sum of eleven hundred rupees per month. It was, however, a well-known fact to every man in India and to every Director in Leadenhall Street that the members of the Board of Trade made up the deficiency or difference between this awkward kick upstairs to a seat at the Board and the lucrative situations they had been taken from, by either themselves having a share or proportion in each contract they granted, or else making the contractor allow them a certain commission for their granting such contracts, a circumstance so public that no member of the Board ever considered it necessary to make a secret of it".<sup>38</sup> We cannot dismiss this description merely as a plea of the defending attorney. (Hickey, as a solicitor, had undertaken briefs on behalf of some of the prosecuted servants who were his friends). Jacob Rider, whose defence was accepted by the Fort William Board, and William Rooke, one of the past members of the Board of Trade who had been prosecuted in England and who was similarly let off, said much the same thing in vindicating themselves.<sup>39</sup>

36. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 332.

37. *Ibid.*, p. 336.

38. Hickey, *op. cit.*, p. 307.

39. Home Public Proceedings, 29 Feb. 1788; Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 333.

It was Cornwallis who brought with him high standards of probity and integrity in public life, but his employers could not lay claim to the same degree of honesty always. Many of the Directors who seem to be so seething with righteous indignation in this Correspondence were themselves involved in many shady deals in their earlier career. If the prosecutors themselves had been speculators once, it was doubtful whether they were really interested in pursuing the legal proceedings against the guilty servants. In fact the Company itself was composed of many groups whose sole concern was to further their own interests, not to maintain standards of purity in public service. Many dismissed servants could depend upon reinstatement if they knew the right groups in the Court of Proprietors.<sup>40</sup>

While it may be admitted that the initial fault lay with the Court of Directors in having connived at a corrupt system for so long, there was no doubt that there were many unscrupulous servants in the Commercial Department who were guilty of breach of trust. If they did not receive their full deserts, actions against them at least secured their removal and thus helped in cleansing the Department of corrupt elements. Cornwallis could write to the Court, "I can venture to assert with the utmost safety that the business of your Board of Trade is at present carried on with very extraordinary ability; as well as upon the principles of the strictest integrity",<sup>41</sup> and reassure them that "there is now no systematic or practised abuse in the Commercial Department".<sup>42</sup>

#### *New Method of Investment and Other Commercial Reforms*

Cornwallis was more concerned with the system of investment which had led to abuses than with individual servants who were corrupt. He was against indiscriminate prosecution which he felt would do more harm than good to the civil service. In the ultimate analysis, whatever the method of procuring goods, the Company had to rely on the honesty and fidelity of its servants. He, therefore, decided to make a study of the various modes of obtaining investment and choose the system on its merits. He had no previous commercial experience and had therefore, to depend a good deal on the advice of experienced servants like Charles Grant. In his letter to the Court of Directors dated 1st November 1788 he announced that his aim was "not merely to punish past misconduct...but to establish after mature deliberation, a system for the future provision of your Investment in Bengal upon such solid and satisfactory principles", that the system would be settled once for all to promote the prosperity of the Company. In that letter he made a historical review of the past usages; the method of procuring goods by making advances to a few rich *collani* merchants which was current in the early days of the Company, and the change-over to investment through *gumashtas* and the Company's servant; the oppressive conduct of the latter particularly after the acquisition of the *diwani*, which necessitated remittance of territorial revenues through investment, and finally the

40. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 332.

41. LTC, 10 Jan. 1788, para 8.

42. LTC, 1 Nov. 1788, para 37.

setting up of the Board of Trade in 1774 so that investment could be procured on purely commercial principles. Between 1774 and 1782 while raw silk was bought through contractors, piecegoods were procured through the Company's servants in the mofussil. After 1782 the contract system became universal.

The main advantage of the contract system had been that mostly the contractors were Company's servants and as such agreed to furnish goods against mere issue of paper (bills and bonds) instead of cash at a time when public credit was very low. But in the changed circumstances the agency system, i.e. (by which the Company's servants at various factories in the interior made advances to and direct arrangements with the manufacturers), appeared to be much more advantageous. Goods could be bought more cheaply by securing them through first hand. Already many factories were functioning in this manner and they were working as a barrier against oppression by native or European agents against producers. A covenanted servant governed by the Company's civil service rules was naturally less inclined to be oppressive than unscrupulous European adventurers or temporary contractors who dabbled in trade. As regards establishment expenditure it would be the same for a contractor as well as the Company's agent. But whereas the latter could hope to recover outstanding balances over the years a temporary contractor would estimate such losses to be higher. He had to make his profit in a short period and this consideration would enhance his prices. Similar considerations led Cornwallis to reject the idea of making cash purchases in Calcutta market. First of all such a market had yet to be formed. Secondly while the Company's factories helped in maintaining the quality of goods, contractors who could take their place would be merely interested in selling debased quality of goods at higher rates and in making easy profits. Besides, the Company would not be sure whether they would have their full, annual investment fulfilled.

Thus debating the issue, Cornwallis decided upon the agency system of investment. It may be noticed that his decision was influenced more by the practical and theoretical aspects of the question than by the orders of the Court. The Directors had indicated their preference for the contract system though they had left him with discretion to choose any system that would be advantageous to the Company. Their main concern was that there should be as few outstanding balances as possible, that the commitments should be fully carried out, that there should be a fair competition among the Company's servants, other Europeans and natives, that foreigners should not be supplied with goods in preference to the Company, and that the quality should be maintained according to the muster.<sup>43</sup>

Cornwallis ensured that the spirit rather than the letter of the Directors' instructions was observed. The period after the end of the Anglo-French war was a boom period for the weavers of Bengal. Like a flickering flame about to extinguish, French commerce in

Bengal had received a sudden last spurt and the weavers found that it was much more profitable to supply cloth to them than to the English whose prices were on the lower side. Cornwallis, therefore, issued a set of regulations to prevent the weavers from utilizing the advances made by the Company to sell cloth to others and to ensure that they kept up their engagements with the Company. At the same time there was a likelihood that the Commercial Residents may abuse these regulations to oppress the manufacturers. He, therefore, sought to protect the weavers by framing new rules for the guidance of the cloth agents. They were to make early, reasonable, annual settlements with the weavers. The settlements were to be sealed and no deductions of any kind were to be made from prices agreed upon. Prices were to be fixed according to musters and the weavers were not to be taxed for producing goods beyond their ability.<sup>44</sup>

While he, thus, sought to ensure the quality, quantity and price of the investment along with the happiness of the weavers, Cornwallis was not indifferent to the interests of the servants in the Commercial Department. To put the temptation of making money by collusive contracts out of the way of the commercial servants, he raised the annual salary of a member of Board of Trade from C. Rs. 14,000 to C. Rs. 58,000.<sup>45</sup> Commercial Residents were also to be permitted private trade. Cornwallis felt that it was useless to make rules which are honoured only in their breach. Honest wages and calculated commissions paid through the Company's treasury would be preferable to perquisites and undefined emoluments. He, therefore, advocated commissions to the Commercial Residents on goods procured but these were not to be linked up with profits on sales in England. The latter were uncertain, but if the servants were to be encouraged to secure quality goods at reasonable rates they ought to be given fixed commissions.<sup>46</sup>

In accordance with the Court's instructions the Board of Trade was made subordinate to the Fort William Board. Besides, Cornwallis reorganized the Commercial Department fixing the establishment expenses of the Residencies in proportion to the amount of goods procured. Care was taken to utilize local knowledge and experience to guard against the former evils. In consequence of the reorganisation an Agent for loading and unloading of Ships was appointed.<sup>47</sup>

The investment for the season 1787-88 was procured through the agency system. Natural calamities such as floods and storms clouded the advantages of the system, but Cornwallis did not seem to have any doubts about its success. He felt that "the investment was intelligently and attentively provided at its genuine and fair cost without any charge upon it but what has been actually expended and necessary".<sup>48</sup> In view of such strong assertions on the part of their

44. N. K. Sinha, *Economic History of Bengal*, Vol. I, pp. 159-62.

45. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 333.

46. LTC, 1 Nov. 1788, para 23.

47. LTC, 27 July 1787, paras 20-3.

48. LTC, 1 Nov. 1788, paras 36-7.

trusted Governor-General the Court of Directors could not but consent to the deviation from their orders against procuring investment through the agency system.<sup>49</sup>

### *Piece-Goods and Competition from Manchester*

Piece-goods continued to hold a predominant place in the Company's list of investment during this period. For the year 1787 cotton piece-goods worth seven lakh pounds sterling were ordered.<sup>50</sup> With a fine sensibility of touch, a nice perception of weight, a singular command of muscular action—skills inherited from their forefathers, the Bengali weavers and spinners continued to produce muslins that delighted the eye (*nainsook* i.e. *nainsukh*) and cooled the body (*terindam* i.e. *tarandam*). Sweet as nectar (*emmerties* i.e. *amriti*) with texture as thin and fine as limpid, running water (*abroahs*) or semi-transparent like *Sharbat* (*seerbetti*), these cloths were the ornaments of the body (*tanzeb*). As Sir George Birdwood rightly remarks, "the poetic names of Bengal piece-goods convey to the reader a truer idea of their exquisite fineness and delicacy, and of the estimation in which they are held than whole pages of literal description".<sup>51</sup> The Company's list of investment is full of such poetic names. These piece-goods with quality marks upon them had such reputation that they were ordered by the list of assortments only. Dacca, as is well-known, held a premier place in their production, but there were other centres such as Kumarkhali, Chandpur, Jagdia, Kaikala, Kasijora, Gopalpur, Balasore and Barnagore. Besides superfine muslins, calicoes which were later printed in England were in great demand. Among such calicoes must be mentioned *khasa*, *bajta* and *sannoe*. Particularly flowered *khasa* was very much in demand and *khasa* from Malda was much appreciated. Comparatively coarser varieties of cloth like *garha*, *hammam* (probably used at the bath) *peniascoe* (made of pine-apple fabric) and *nillaes* (blue cloth probably for use of slaves in West Indies) were also ordered in large quantities.

But the Bengali weaver at his loom and the spinner at her spindle continued to work completely unaware of the challenge from the West. They were blissfully ignorant of the fact that their extremely skilled fingers were in the process of being cut off, figuratively, if not literally. The coming Industrial Revolution was casting its long shadow before. The Lancashire cotton industry was fast catching up with the age-old methods of Indian manufacturers. Along with their letter dated 12th April 1786, the Court of Directors sent some samples of English muslins to demonstrate the rapid strides made in those manufactures and urged the Fort William Board that only by improving the quality and fabric of Bengal cotton goods and procuring them on the most frugal terms possible could the Court prefer them to home manufactures.<sup>52</sup> In another two years the Court of Directors were compelled to report, "By the great ingenuity and

49. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 9.

50. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 110.

51. *Industrial Arts of India*, Vol. II, p. 239.

52. Para 131.

persevering industry of British manufacturers the article of muslin in the ordinary and middling assortments is at length brought to that degree of perfection that there is every reason to apprehend a sufficient supply of the best Surat Cotton will enable them to meet the Indian white piece-goods of the above description in the foreign markets".<sup>53</sup> Ever since the invention of Arkwright's spinning machine, research in the techniques of textile production had received great impetus in England. Particularly between 1779 and 1786 there were a series of important inventions—Crompton's mule in 1779, Bell's process of cylinder printing in 1784, Berthollet's process of bleaching by chlorine and Cartwright's powerloom in 1785.

The English manufacturers, therefore, were agitating for restrictions on the Company's import of piece-goods. The duty and freight on these goods had already enabled the Manchester manufacturers to undersell cotton goods in the British market. But they further demanded that three-fifths of these piece-goods should be compulsorily re-exported.<sup>54</sup> In their answer the Court of Directors pointed out that most of the piece-goods were already being re-exported. If the imports were restricted it would only direct the trade to foreign channels, increase smuggling and thus affect the revenues of India. They insisted that the English manufacturers' protests were mainly due to 'the distress which involved many individuals in consequence of their having pushed their enterprises beyond all bounds by raising fictitious credits and circulations to an extent unprecedented'. The British Parliament agreed and considered the existing protection enough.<sup>55</sup>

While thus protecting the import of piece-goods the Court of Directors thought it prudent to conciliate the home manufacturers by exploring the possibility of selling Manchester goods in India in view of "the general advantage of the Kingdom at Large". Their another conciliatory measure was to agree to the import of 5 lakh pounds of the best Broach and Surat cotton or Bengal cotton of similar quality in compliance with the wishes of the British manufacturers.<sup>56</sup> It is quite another matter that the demand could not be met and that only a very modest quantity of indifferent cotton was sent.<sup>57</sup> The fact is that a private corporation enjoying special privileges from the British Parliament could hardly afford to antagonise completely the manufacturing interests in England. We cannot look upon these measures of the Court as a pre-meditated plan to destroy the cotton industry of Bengal. Leadenhall Street and Lancashire did not conspire to ruin the Indian textile manufactures.

On the contrary the Court of Directors felt confident, that in spite of the great improvements in Lancashire industry they were

53. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788, para 1.

54. *Ibid.*

55. A. Tripathi, *Trade and Finance in the Bengal Presidency (1790-1882)*, pp. 24-5.

56. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788; LFC, 20 Aug. 1788.

57. *Reports and Documents connected with the proceedings of the East India Company in regard to the Culture and Manufacture of Cotton Wool, Raw Silk and Indigo in India*, 21st December, 1836, p. v.

far from producing the finer products that could stand comparison with Bengal piece-goods. "It is in these fine assortments we more particularly wish our investments to be extended because they yield the greatest profits and interfere the least with the Home Manufacturers", they wrote.<sup>58</sup> The British manufacturers themselves admitted, "...in the finest muslins they certainly exceed us. We do not believe that we have at present any principle of spinning by which the finest yarn can be spun, so equal and level as they spin it."<sup>59</sup> The Court therefore urged upon the improvement of cotton seed which could lend itself for superior yarn. By agreeing to push sales of Manchester goods in India and to import cotton from Bombay, the Court succeeded in temporarily stopping the clamour against the Company's monopoly of trade. Cartwright's power-loom was still imperfect in many ways, and the export of Bengal piece-goods continued uninterrupted during this period. The French Revolution was yet to break out to ruin the export of fine muslins for the use of the elegant ladies of the Court of Versailles.

### Raw Silk

The export next in importance to cotton piece-goods was raw silk, a raw material essential for British textile industry. As the Court of Directors reminded the Board, "You are well aware of the consequence of this import, not alone to the Company but to the manufacture at large which stands next in rank in this country to that of the woollens".<sup>60</sup> Particularly after the acquisition of *Diwani*, investment in raw silk assumed greater importance as it was regarded as a very convenient mode of remitting surplus revenue to England. But while piece-goods always had a steady market, efforts had to be made to push up export of raw silk because the country-wound silk from Bengal was not really very suitable for British manufactures. Its threads used to be unequal in the same skein, resulting in frequent breaks; nor was it properly assorted. The Court of Directors had been making efforts from very early times to improve sericulture in Bengal by sending experts like Richard Wilder (1757-61) and Joseph Pouchon (1765-6). It was the method of winding that made the real difference. The Italian method of reeling it straight from the pod vastly improved the quality of silk. It was estimated that if wound by this method 500 bales of Bengal silk could be easily sold in London market at a 20-30% increase in price instead of a bare 20-30 bales. In 1770, therefore, the Court sent four Italian winders headed by James Wiss, a Piedmontese, to introduce that method in Bengal. Results achieved by Wiss could be judged by the report: "Mr. Wiss has succeeded to admiration in drawing a tolerable silk from the most ungrateful cocoons that the sickliest worms under the most unfavourable season could produce.... The coarser silks could not be much improved; it was the finer sizes that required reformation

58. LFC, 20 Aug 1788, para 2

59. Tripathi, *op. cit.*, p. 24.

60. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 112. Of course the Court is writing from the British standpoint. Among the exports from India to England cotton piecegoods and raw silk were the most important in that order. Among British industries woollens and textiles respectively were the most important.

which if accomplished the Company would view with astonishment the advanced price and demand for it." The breed of silk-worms was sought to be improved by importing them from China. The Bengal ryots were offered various kinds of inducements to bring more land under mulberry cultivation. Meanwhile Indian winders quickly learnt the Italian method of silk-reeling which gradually replaced the age-old system in practically all the silk centres of Bengal. Services of Italian winders were no longer necessary. Such ceaseless efforts were naturally well-rewarded. The export of Bengal silk rose from a little more than 1,90,000 small pounds (i.e. of 16 oz.) in 1775 to more than 5,50,000 small lbs. on an average in 1785, while the import into England from other countries was only half this quality. *Paikars* (dealers) brought the cocoons from *chassars* (i.e. market and henceforth Bengal vied with north Italy and China as a supplier of silk.<sup>61</sup>

The Company did not derive much benefit from this increased export mainly owing to collusive contracts by its servants to which reference has already been made. Labour was cheap in Bengal and it should have been possible to sell it at a lesser price than Italian silk. The Court, therefore, ordered an enquiry into the price structure of Bengal raw silk. Finding that the Board of Trade were not forwarding any report on it for well-nigh two years owing to deliberate negligence or interested reluctance, the Court collected information on their own, and sent a copy of it to Bengal along with their letter dated 21st July 1786. This supplies valuable economic data on the silk industry in Bengal. Basically the price of silk depended on the quality of the cocoons. For strength, beauty and quantity the best were those gathered in March and November; seasons of January and April came next, while June and August yielded poor quality. *Paikars* (dealers) bought the cocoons from *chassars* (i.e. those who reared them by renting mulberry plantations), very often by forcing their own prices. But for some years past on an average they paid *sikka* Rs. 10-12 per maund between 40 and 45 seers). By 'tale' (Chinese weight equivalent to 1 1/3 oz. avoirdupois) also the price was nearly the same but *paikars* bought by one weight and quite often sold by another. Adding up charges for winding, fire-wood, ovens, coolies and other incidental expenses the price worked out to *sikka* Rs. 6-4 per seer, while the Company had been paying a minimum price of *sikka* Rs. 9-12 for the cheapest variety, at about 1770. In fact the Court had got a comparative statement of prices prepared for the years 1765-71, and desired a similar report from 1771 onwards along with such details as the precise number of silk filatures and so on.<sup>62</sup>

Repeatedly pressed by the Court, the Board of Trade finally was activated into entrusting the enquiry to James Frushard, Superintendent of Silk Filatures. He had come to Bengal in 1779 to see to it that the Italian method of winding was universally adopted.<sup>63</sup> A

61. *Report on.....Raw Silk....op. cit.*, pp. iii-xxiv.

62. LFC, 21 July 1786, paras 46-53.

63. *Report on Raw Silk....., op. cit.*

zealous promoter of the industry it was he who later proposed investment in a variety of silk called *tussa* drawn from wild cocoons available in hilly tracts.<sup>64</sup> He made a detailed study of the price structure and concluded that 9 *sanwat* Rs. per seer (80 *sikka* weight) was the lowest possible price at which silk for the Company could be procured. But the Court was not satisfied. Shrewd merchants as they were, they made their own calculations, deducted irrelevant charges and observed that the prime cost would be only 8 *sanwat* Rs. Comparing with the then current prices paid by the Company viz. 11 *sikka* Rs. 10 an. per seer (72 *sikka* weight) before reduction in prices and 8 *sikka* Rs. 12 an. per seer after the reduction brought about by the newly constituted Board of Trade, it still left the contractor with a high profit of 69% and 27% respectively. And this not on choicest quality but just the ordinary type. Frushard expected the sale price in London to be £ 2-5 per great pound (of 24 oz). Allowing for due deductions such as customs duty etc. the Company's profit should have been nearly 2s. 10d. per current rupee. But the actual accounts showed that the Company netted only 1s. 1d. per current rupee. As we have already noticed this was due to the gross abuses prevailing in the contracts by the Company's servants. The price catalogue sent by the Court indicated that the average sale price of the Company's silk was 20s. 3d. per great pound.<sup>65</sup>

But the failure of the season in Italy shot up the prices in 1787 and thereby the Company made good profit. In March 1787 great lbs. 1,35,755 were sold at the average price of 26s. 2d. per pound. In September of the same year great lbs. 96,370 were sold at the average price of 24s. 10d.<sup>66</sup> Meanwhile collusive contracts came to an end as a result of the agency system introduced by Cornwallis who informed the Court with satisfaction, "... The manner of cultivating and providing the investment of Raw silk is now sufficiently methodized and I am persuaded that in common seasons, we shall be able to come near your expectation<sup>67</sup>..." He also looked forward to profitable cultivation of the mulberry in Bihar.<sup>68</sup> The Board of Trade had already decided to invest Rs. 10,000 in *tussa* silk as an experimental measure.<sup>69</sup> But the high hopes raised by those measures were not destined to be realised. The Court expected an annual provision of 5,40,000 small pounds.<sup>70</sup> The heavy rains and famine of 1787-88 ruled it out completely.<sup>71</sup> Finally, in the ultimate analysis it is demand that determines the supply. Changing fashions rule the market. The rapid progress in British textiles almost entirely banished silk from the dress of British ladies and the outbreak of French Revolution greatly affected the silk industry of Bengal.<sup>72</sup>

64. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, Para 211.

65. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 287-90 and 295.

66. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, paras 34 and 37.

67. LTC, 10 Jan. 1788, para 8.

68. LTC, 1 Nov. 1788, para 33.

69. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 211.

70. *Report on Raw Silk* . . . , *op. cit.*

71. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 208.

72. J. C. Sinha, *Economic Annals of Bengal*, p. 254.

### Indigo

The East India Company had been exporting large quantities of indigo to England in the 17th century. Stiff competition from the West Indian colonies of Great Britain and the Spanish and French colonies at Guatemala and St. Domingo, which produced much better quality, gradually ousted Indian indigo from the English market. British dyers then entirely depended on foreign countries for their requirements. But the War of American Independence made supply position rather precarious. The Court of Directors decided to take advantage of this situation to revive their trade in indigo<sup>73</sup> and in 1779-80 entered into a contract with J.T. Prinsep for the supply of 35,000 lbs. at the rate of Rs. 220 per maund (of 76 lbs).

This price was agreed upon mainly with a view to encouraging the new industry. To manufacture indigo, however, of a quality that could come up to the standard of foreign products required a good deal of experience and experimentation. The indigo works started by Prinsep on the West Indian model could not yield sufficient quantity of the required quality to fulfill his contract. Undaunted, he bought the indigenous indigo of Agra and Delhi at prices between Rs. 50 and 100 per maund, mixed it up with the better quality from his own works and thus managed to discharge off his commitments. On 1200 maunds he made an enormous profit of about Rs. 2 lakhs. A contemporary described Prinsep's contract as "the greatest abuse under this Government".<sup>74</sup>

Such huge profits so easily earned naturally lured many other adventurers into the field. Douglas, Fergusson, Baretto, and J. P. Scott were some other contractors, besides Prinsep, who entered into engagements with the Company. None of them effected any improvement in the quality of the product, which was by no means their first concern. As a result the Court of Directors found it difficult to sell this adulterated indigo, or if they sold it, it was at a loss. In their letter dated 28th March 1788 the Court observed, "Having taken a review of the issue of our concerns in the article of Indigo from the time our Board of Trade entered into the first Contract with Mr. Prinsep in the year 1779/80 up to the latest period we are sorry to remark the very heavy losses that has [sic] constantly accrued thereon". They estimated that prior to 1788 their losses were 27% having netted only 1s. 7.67 d. to the current rupee. Precise figures for subsequent purchases were not available as only a part of the produce could be sold, but the losses till then sustained were 28%, while foreigners had been making very good profit on this article.<sup>75</sup>

Meanwhile, Benjamin Boyce, a military servant of the Company, claimed that he had brought about great improvement in the process of manufacturing indigo.<sup>76</sup> He submitted samples of his product which

73. *Report on ... Indigo...*, *op. cit.*

74. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 291.

75. Paras 38-45.

76. Some of his suggestions re. indigo manufacture, contained in his letter to the Board dated 4 Feb. 1788, are extracted in W. S. Seton-Karr, *Selections from Calcutta Gazettes*, Vol. I, p. 231.

the Board considered to be very superior in colour, purity and weight, and decided to enter into a contract with him. He was to be allowed a salary of Rs. 400 p.m., besides half of the net profits as a reward for his discoveries.<sup>77</sup> Cornwallis felt this decision taken by Macpherson to be too hasty. He desired that the sample should be inspected not only by the members of the Board of Trade but also by other manufacturers and experts. Accordingly on 22nd December 1786 the specimens submitted by Boyce were examined at the Council House and to confirm the result some pieces of cloth were also dyed with it. The judges announced that Boyce's indigo was exceedingly fine, equalling the Guatemalan quality, but its manufacturing process was expensive. Besides, Britain imported such fine quality on a very small scale.<sup>78</sup> The question of entering into a contract with Boyce, therefore, was submitted to the Court, who obtained an expert's report on the samples. It was favourable to Boyce. But the Court after specifying the qualities required for different European markets suggested that Boyce may be given the contract only if he could supply the specific qualities at a rate profitable to the Company.<sup>79</sup>

As Cornwallis correctly pointed out it was possible to procure small specimens of unusual fineness, but the expenses involved were so great that no profits could be expected.<sup>80</sup> Commercial manufacture of superior quality of indigo on a large scale at a profitable rate was the main problem. The Court of Directors, therefore, decided to lay open the trade in the hope that competition would lead to greater perfection in quality and would also provide a legal and ample means of remittance of private fortunes by the Company's servants.<sup>81</sup> Also with a view to promoting export, the servants as well as other merchants were permitted to transport indigo on ships hired by the Company.<sup>82</sup>

### *Saltpetre*

While indigo was an article in which the Company had been trying to revive its trade, saltpetre or the nitrate of potash had always been a staple export since it was used as ballast for ships and could be relied upon to fill up the unoccupied tonnage. The climate of Bihar was so favourable for its manufacture that it became almost a natural product. Saltish earth from damp old walls and cattle-sheds, used to be scraped off and soaked in water for a considerable period and then boiled. When the water evaporated what remained was 'cutcha' petre. The very simplicity of the process offered immense scope for adulteration. While dealing with the corruption in the Commercial Department, we have already noted the extent to which the Company's servants had been defrauding the Directors in this article. When they complained of the bad quality of the 'petre' sent

<sup>77</sup>. LTC, 7 March 1786, paras 7-12.

<sup>78</sup>. LTC, 19 Feb. 1787, paras 16-21.

<sup>79</sup>. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, paras 44-6.

<sup>80</sup>. LTC, 10 Jan. 1787, paras 8-9.

<sup>81</sup>. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 43.

<sup>82</sup>. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 201-2.

to them the Resident at Patna offered to refine it, resulting in a handsome profit of about a lakh of current rupees for himself. The so-called 'refinement' was no better than. 04% and 2000 tons of the 'refined' quality could not be sold. The Company's losses in this article amounted to about C. Rs. 40,000. After giving facts and figures about it in their letter dated 27th March 1787 the Court passed its strictures in a comparatively mild tone: "After the most mature deliberation on the subject we are of the opinion that the contract for providing refined saltpetre in the room of the former mode was improvident and injurious to the Company's interests."<sup>83</sup>

Being an important ingredient in the manufacture of gunpowder, the sale of saltpetre greatly fluctuated with political events. In fact more than the poor quality of the product supplied by the Company, the real reason why the Directors found it difficult to sell saltpetre during this period was the glut in the market. The War of American Independence drove the French to either manufacture it themselves or buy it from the Dutch, while Eastern Europe bought it from Russia.<sup>84</sup> The re-export market was thus practically closed for the Company and in 1786 they found about 80,000 bags on hand. To compete with foreign countries the Company brought down its price to 45s. 2d. per hundredweight and was thus able to sell 25,000 bags. Even then in the beginning of 1788 they continued to have a stock of 84,105 bags in hand. They therefore ordered that henceforth every ship should carry only its charterparty tonnage of 3000 bags and no more. If on any ship tonnage remained unoccupied, then of course, it was to be filled up by saltpetre to save losses from dead freight.<sup>85</sup> During this period the Company invested in it more with a view to selling it for ready money in Calcutta<sup>86</sup> than export to England, till the outbreak of French Revolution again created a great demand for it.

### Opium

Opium was another very important item of export trade from India, in which the East India Company exercised monopoly. There was a tentative proposal in July 1782 to abolish the monopoly but then it was realised that to retain the profits monopoly was essential and the proposal was dropped. However the Company did not directly manage opium trade. It used to auction the opium contract to the highest bidder. Thus Messrs Young & Heatley secured the contract in 1785 for four years (1785-89) which was confirmed by the Court in March 1787. It resulted in a profit of Rs. 3,80,000 for the Company. The Court, however, wanted the Board to find out if agency system instead of contract by auction might not prove more profitable. They further suggested that happiness of poppy-cultivators, quality of opium and precedents in Mughal times relating to monopoly in opium may also be duly investigated in this connection.<sup>87</sup>

83. Paras 300-10.

84. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 300.

85. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, paras 47-8.

86. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 218.

87. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 198-201.

Among areas directly administered by the East India Company poppy was then being cultivated in the Benares region and the Bihar province. After the appointment of Jonathan Duncan as Resident at Benares opium manufacture in the Benares *zamindari* was undertaken by the Company itself as it was expected to be more profitable. In January 1788 opium from Benares and Bihar was sold at the rates of Rs. 573-4-5.2 and Rs. 587-5-9 per chest<sup>88</sup> respectively. By the sale of 580 chests of opium, produced in Benares, the Company made a net profit of Rs. 1,70,000 and expected much greater profits in the following year.<sup>89</sup>

The Court was keen on promoting export of opium to China and thus reduce the quantity of specie required for purchases from there. But import of opium was officially prohibited in China and the Company obviously could not openly indulge in illicit trade. As a way out the Court, therefore, suggested Fort Marlbro' and Malaya as intermediate markets for its ultimate export to China. Of the total production of 4000 chests, 1000 each could be sold to the Dutch at Batavia and at Trenggau and 1200 at Macao and China. Opium could be sold in three ways: (i) By a society of merchants who promised to pay at Canton treasury upto 8 lakh Spanish dollars. (But the exchange rate was lower than usual, i.e. only 40 Spanish dollars for 100 C. Ds. instead of 41½.) (ii) By the Company's servants on the Company's account. About 200 chests could be sent to Fort Marlbro' for ultimate disposal in China, but care had to be taken that unsold stocks did not accumulate there. (iii) By public sale which agreed with the principles of free trade. The Court of Directors only made these suggestions but actually left the entire subject to the Board's discretion merely emphasizing the principle that opium was exclusively for China trade.<sup>90</sup>

### Salt

As in opium so in salt the East India Company held monopoly. But while opium was mainly meant for export salt was chiefly for internal consumption, with the exception of export to Assam. When Warren Hastings left India salt manufacturing business was under the direct control of the Comptroller at Calcutta who appointed agents to advance money to the *malangis* or the salt-manufacturers. Their tenure in some parts of Bengal had become hereditary but they were prohibited from selling the salt they produced to any person other than the agents. The agents stored salt and sold it to wholesale dealers at a price fixed by the Government every year, known as the 'Company's price'. The difference between what was paid to the salt-manufacturers and the wholesale price paid by the salt merchants was thus the profit earned by the Government on salt.<sup>91</sup> In 1782-4 the annual net profit amounted to nearly current Rs.

88. Chest = 50 lbs. See H.R.C. Wright, *East Indian Economic Problems of the Age of Cornwallis and Raffles*.

89. LTC, 12 Jan. 1788, para 48; 3 Mar. 1788, para 24; 31 July 1787, para 63; 18 Aug. 1787, para 3.

90. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 202-12; LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 204.

91. N. K. Sinha, *Midnapore Salt Papers*, pp. 4-5, 14-5.

55 lakhs; in 1786-7 however the receipts were estimated at current Rs. 47,56000.<sup>92</sup>

Cornwallis deemed this mode of disposal of salt to be 'extremely exceptionable' and changed it. Under his orders salt was thereafter put to public auction and sold in small lots so that Indian merchants dealing in a small way also could be purchasers. In 1787 only four-fifth of the total production was sold by auction; but the price at which salt was thus sold was definitely higher than the so called 'Company's price' and at the first such sale the Company profited by 5 lakhs of rupees.<sup>93</sup> But at the second auction ostensible purchasers tried to cheat the Government. Consequently resale was ordered and in the bargain the Company lost more than Rs. 36,000.<sup>94</sup>

Salt manufacture was adversely affected by heavy rainfall and inclement weather in 1787-8.<sup>95</sup> Hence the new method of selling salt introduced by Cornwallis was not very successful. Prices of salt remained on the high side. To bring it down Cornwallis ordered early sale of the current year's production in 1788. Salt merchants combined to buy large quantities thereby holding the price-line artificially higher. But salt was a daily necessary of life and the Government could not let the poor consumer suffer; so another sale was advertised and the salt merchants' plans to make undue profit were temporarily foiled.<sup>96</sup> However on account of poor production the Government did not succeed in its efforts to bring down the price. In March 1788 hundred maunds sold at Rs. 312, while in May and June 1788 the price shot up to Rs. 409 and 341 respectively. Indian merchants continued to buy large quantities at higher price and the Company could make good profit. To relieve the distress of the poor, however, it became necessary to import 3 lakh maunds from Northern Sarkars and the contract was given to George Tyler.<sup>97</sup>

Salt from the Northern Sarkars thus imported was of the *kurkutch* variety, which was very much cheaper than the *pungah* variety manufactured in Bengal. The average quantity of salt imported from the Eastern coast into Bengal since 1785 was 4,20,00 maunds. In 1789 there was an advertisement for proposals of contract for delivery of six lakh maunds of coastal salt.<sup>98</sup>

The districts east of the Subarnrekha river, then under the Bhonsla Rajas of Nagpur, also produced a considerable quantity of salt. Since salt production in Bengal was not sufficient enough to meet the local demand the East India Company entered into contract with the Bhonslas for supply of this salt and made excellent profit by reselling it in Bengal. It was estimated, for instance, that three lakh maunds of such salt could be bought at Balasore at Rs. 65 or 70 per

92. LFC., (Separate Financial), 31 July 1787, para 32.

93. LTC., 31 July 1787, paras 36-40; 18 Aug. 1787, para 4

94. LTC., 15 Dec. 1787, para 133.

95. LTC., 3 Nov. 1788, paras 18-9.

96. LTC., 3 Mar. 1788, para 21 and 6 Mar. 1788, paras 93-7.

97. LTC., 6 Nov. 1788, paras 347-8; and 3 Nov. 1788, paras 18-9.

98. Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 3, 5, 7.

100 maunds and sold at Calcutta at Rs. 200 per 100 maunds resulting in a handsome profit of more than Rs. 4 lakhs to the Company. And this after paying a commission of 5% to the Resident at Balasore through whom delivery was arranged. But the Court of Directors, toeing the line taken by the Controller of Salt urged that this purchase should be kept down as much as possible. They even went to the extent of suggesting that secretly and with delicacy 'care must be taken that no more be manufactured than what is disposed of to the Company' in the districts under Maratha rule. If salt production there exceeded the quantity which the Company could buy up, it would encourage smuggling of it into Bengal through the eastern jungles.<sup>99</sup> The Court of Directors appeared to be only commercially motivated in this transaction in sharp contrast to the Fort William Board which felt concern for the interests of the consumer as well.

While the Board tried to provide enough salt to the poorest consumer at a fair price, they had also to look into the salt administration with a view to removing abuses that had crept in the production system. For instance, the *malangis* of 24-Parganas complained about low wages paid to them. As recommended by Grindal to whom the enquiry was entrusted the same were raised. This was done in the hope that it would encourage increased production and more than offset the additional expenses that would have to be incurred.<sup>100</sup> Similarly detailed enquiry into maladministration of the salt manufacturers in Raimangal district was entrusted to C. Burrows and Thomas Brooke. In that district the rules and regulations were very severe and arbitrary: a man once employed as a salt worker was ever after bound to remain so, and this obligation extended to his descendants. He was liable to be seized and forcibly sent to the salt-works if he refused. On principles of justice and humanity the Company removed this compulsion by suitably amending the general and local regulations and made service in salt-works entirely voluntary 'whatever be its consequences to the salt manufacture'.<sup>101</sup>

### *Other Exports*

The stereo-typed list of the Company's investment contained a few minor items of export, some of them covered under the rather curious heading 'drugs'. Articles like redwood and sticklac were used in the British dying industry. Redwood, along with sapan wood and rattan, also served as dunnage. Other 'drugs' were shellac, turmeric (from Patna), alkali and borax. Generally, spices were the preserve of the Dutch but occasionally the Company did not hesitate to buy smuggled goods like cloves and try to sell them. Behind this was the Directors' anxiety to foster these novel exports of which great hopes were held in the early days of the East India trade. In the early 1780 only alkali and tincal or unrefined borax, were among the exported drugs;<sup>102</sup> gradually new items were added. But in their

99. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 215-6; Sinha, *op. cit.*, pp. 20-1.

100. LTC, 31 July 1787, paras 41-4.

101. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 364-71.

102. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 294.

letter dated 24th April 1786 the Directors admitted their failure and confessed that the trade in 'drugs' was declining.<sup>103</sup> There were nothing but losses. They obtained concessions in custom duties on these articles from the British Government; they appointed Lyon Prager (who had been sent originally to regulate the diamond trade at Benares) as Inspector and Purchaser of Drugs for organising the trade on sound footing. But neither of these measures were of any avail. In 1787 the investment in drugs was altogether suspended. The trade in indigo, which had been earlier included in drugs, was thrown open; and there were no other items of advantage. The following year, however, Rs. 10,000 were invested in refined borax on an experimental basis as suggested by Dr. Irving and a sum of a lakh of rupees was set apart for investment in drugs for the season 1788-9.<sup>104</sup> Moreover, one Robert Heaven was permitted to proceed to Bengal to cultivate a sugar plantation, along with cotton and indigo, on the West Indian model, though what came of it is not known. The only item with great future was raw cotton needed for the rapidly expanding textile industry of Manchester. The Directors failed to obtain any worthwhile quantities of it from Bombay, while Calcutta merchants were so anxious to avail of this profitable market that they were prepared to carry the Company's packets free of cost if allowed to export it in their own vessels.<sup>105</sup> Cotton yarn, another small item of export, was completely struck off the list of investment, partly because it was not profitable but mainly to conciliate the Manchester manufacturers.<sup>106</sup>

### *Imports from England*

In comparison to the volume, value and variety of goods exported from Bengal to England, what the Company imported into Bengal was of little importance. Even a simple article like sealing wax was found to be better and cheaper in Bengal than in England.<sup>107</sup> The full impact of the Industrial Revolution that was to flood the Indian market with British manufactured goods was yet to be felt. The chief imports during the period of this Correspondence continued as before, to be woollens, metals and Madeira wine, besides some military and naval stores which were mainly meant for the Company's own use and not as articles of trade. The climate of Bengal was hardly encouraging for the extensive use of woollens and the Company suffered continual losses on this item. Not more than 500 bales of all the varieties put together were sent in a season and more often than not, even these were unsaleable. Very often they had to be 'exposed to sale by public auction' at which the buyers of a lot had to deposit just a rupee and could clear the goods at 9% discount any time within 6 months.<sup>108</sup> Broadcloth and long ells were the chief varieties, though undauntedly the Directors tried to experiment with such novelties as tabbinets, casimirs and superfine camlets

103. Paras 115-9; para 158.

104. LTC, 22 Dec. 1788, para 34.

105. LTC, 3 Nov. 1788, para 35.

106. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 113.

107. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 113.

108. Seton-Karr, *op. cit.*, p. 240.

specially beoiled to suit the tropical climate.<sup>109</sup> Metals, on the contrary had a profitable market and about 50 tons each of iron, steel and lead could be easily disposed of. In copper particularly the Directors discovered great possibilities. They had been sending about 400 tons of it every season. The copper pice introduced by Hastings in Bengal was not yet found acceptable by the Bengalis as its nominal value exceeded the real;<sup>110</sup> but the Directors decided to promote circulation of copper coinage at Fort Marlbro'. They ordered the Bengal Government to stop remittances to Fort Marlbro' which henceforth were to be in the form of copper coins minted in England.<sup>111</sup> Madeira wine, mostly consumed by the European community at Calcutta, could also be profitably exported but for leakages. The Portuguese and other European nations were making good profit on it. The Directors sent 250 pipes in a season. Cornish tin which was to prove a valuable import was yet to be introduced. We have already dealt with the samples of Manchester muslins, an item of import with most far-reaching effects and the Directors' orders to explore possibilities of their sale in Bengal.

### *China Trade*

During the second half of the XVIIIth century the Company's China trade became more valuable than its Indian investments. There was a rapid increase in its volume. Between 1787-90 while trade with India fetched about two million pounds sterling, the China goods sold for an average of much more than 2 million pounds sterling,<sup>112</sup> which completely falsified Dupleix's gloomy prophecy that Europeans would never succeed in establishing permanent trade with China. During Cornwallis's governor-generalship 22 ships were annually required for China trade while less than ten sufficed in the seventies. In this trade England forged ahead of her French and Dutch rivals. In the period 1786-92 the Company bought two-thirds of the China tea, and 85% of raw silk trade was in English hands. Three ships out of four European vessels trading to China were English.<sup>113</sup> The Company's imports from China were chiefly silk and tea which was rapidly taking the place of beer as a popular beverage to the dismay of old-fashioned folks. The articles of export were raw cotton from Bombay which sold at 70% profit, opium from Fort William Presidency, pepper from Sumatra, tin from Penang (Malaya) and lead from England.<sup>114</sup> Also in order to conciliate the manufacturing classes at home the Company seized every opportunity of introducing other English manufactures besides lead into China and even hoped that

109. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 94; LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 246.

110. Home Public Original Consultation No. 6, 16 April 1788.

111. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788 (Commercial), para 5.

112. George Anderson, *A General View... from 1784... to the commencement of the present hostilities*, London, 1792.

113. H. B. Morse, *Chronicles of East India Company trading to China*, Vol. II.

114. M. Blancard stated that he sold Bombay cotton at 90% to 100% profit at Canton in 1787; 38 English ships brought and sold 1 lakh bales at the same price as his. Morse, *op. cit.*, II; Anderson, *op. cit.*, pp. xlix, 162.

115. Only 50 tons of lead was sent to Bengal and Bombay each in 1787 but 1830 tons proposed to be to China. LFC, 22 Dec. 1786, para 36.

they might percolate into southern China from Tibet. In 1786 Lancashire cotton goods appeared in Canton markets for the first time. But they could not compete with local silks and cottons, and the wollens had never been very successful. Regarding opium, there were difficulties as the Chinese Emperor had banned its import for smoking purposes and the Court of Directors felt that the Company could not directly and flagrantly engage in its illicit traffic. Peach, one of the supercargoes at Canton, had declared in July 1785 that the sale of opium in China was very uncertain. The Court hoped that the difficulty of supplying their Canton treasury could nevertheless be overcome by increasing their opium sales in the eastern archipelago in return for Spanish dollars or tin and pepper which the Chinese required.<sup>116</sup> But the balance of trade lay in favour of China. The demand at Canton for the products of India and England did not increase in proportion to the English demand for tea. In fact Chinese economy was self-sufficient to a large extent.

As a result the Company had to send large consignments of bullion to China for investment. During the three years, 1786 to 1788, the Company exported twice as much silver as the rest of the European countries put together, and the total bullion exported from England to the East increased from an annual average of £ 110,000 between 1767-77 to over £ 600,000 a year between 1784-90.<sup>117</sup> Bengal had to bear its share in this export and it continued to be drained of its silver. The province could not, declared Cornwallis, "without ruin, continue the exportation of its specie."<sup>118</sup> More than once proposals were invited from merchants trading with China for suitable investments, but these did not prove fruitful as many risks were involved.<sup>119</sup> Consequently the Court of Directors did not "scruple to affirm that the most lucrative and beneficial mode of carrying on the trade with China from Europe is by the export of bullion". Hence when serious difficulties and real embarrassments were experienced at Calcutta to meet the bills drawn on them by the supercargoes at Canton for very large sums of money, the Court decided to send to Canton 2,900,000 Spanish dollars directly from Europe and authorised them to draw upon them, and not on Calcutta, for their needs.<sup>120</sup>

A side result of the unfavourable balance of trade with China was that since the cargoes of the homeward bound ships were greatly in excess of the cargoes of outward bound ships, these frequently had to sail in ballast from Madras or Calcutta to Canton.<sup>121</sup> In this connection it may be noted that a strong factor that influenced Cornwallis in allowing the Penang settlement was the possibility of diminishing export of silver to China. Malayan tin and Sumatran pepper could be exported from Penang to China and thus some bullion could be saved. Similarly one of the aims in the commercial

116. LFC., 27 Mar. 1787, paras 202-12; 28 Mar. 1788, para 30.

117. Anderson, *op. cit.*, App. XII.

118. Public Proceedings (Straits Settlements), 13 Dec. 1786.

119. LTC, 17 Jan. 1787; 10 Jan 1788, para 11; 12 Jan. 1788, para 39.

120. LFC, 18 Mar. 1788, para 30.

121. Home Public Proceedings, 23 July 1788.

treaty with Oudh was to encourage import of raw cotton from the Deccan through the Vazir's territories into Bengal for onward export to Canton where it sold at high profit.

But the Company did not have smooth trade relations with China. European merchants were often oppressively treated by the Emperor's officials at Canton and had no access to the tribunals of the country for redress of their grievances. To establish amicable relations, the British Government sent an embassy to China under Lt. Col. Cathcart in 1787. Cathcart, however, never reached Peking. He died on the way at sea in June 1788 and it was not until May 1792 that Lord Macartney was appointed to succeed him.<sup>122</sup>

### *Trade with Tibet*

The entire credit for conceiving and initiating the idea of trade between Bengal and Tibet is usually given to Warren Hastings. But as a matter of fact, in a letter to Governor Verelst in 1769, Surgeon James Logan, (who had been sent on a mission to Nepal for supporting the Newari raja there against the Gurkhas), had already mentioned the possibility of expanding the Company's commerce to Tibet.<sup>123</sup> Hastings, of course, was responsible for giving practical shape to this nebulous idea. A letter from the Teshu Lama on behalf of his vassal, the Raja of Bhutan, provided him with an opening. In May 1774 he deputed George Bogle to the Lama with the express purpose of negotiating a treaty of mutual and equal trade communication between Bengal and Tibet. Bogle's report, a copy of which was sent to the Directors, was very favourable. Tibet produced gold, musk, yaktails and wool but nothing in the way of manufactured goods. The land was mountainous and barren with scanty population which had to depend largely on foreign supplies. Such English manufactures as broadcloth had a great market. And there was plenty of room for many other European products as Tibetans were very fond of things from other lands.<sup>124</sup>

The hostile majority in the Council and the sudden deaths of Bogle and the Teshu Lama proved a temporary setback to Hastings' plan for promoting the Company's trade with the northern countries. But at an opportune moment in 1783 he sent another mission headed by Lt. Samuel Turner ostensibly to present his regards to the Regent of Tibet but in reality to follow up the prospects of commerce. Turner's report was as encouraging as that of Bogle. He gave a detailed account of Tibet's trade with its neighbouring countries such as China, Nepal, Bhutan and Ladakh, referred to the rich mineral resources with which Tibetans could buy anything they needed and informed of their keenness to encourage trade.<sup>125</sup>

122. Morse, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 156, 169, 216.

123. S. C. Sarkar, "Some Notes on the Intercourse of Bengal with the Northern Countries in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century", *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vol. XLI (Calcutta, 1931).

124. For full details see C. Markham, *Mission of George Bogle to Tibet and the journey of Thoms Manning to Lhasa*.

125. *An account of an Embassy to the Court of the Teshoo Lama in Tibet*, (London, 1800).

Deriving their information from these very favourable reports of Logan, Bogle and Turner the Court declared that a very beneficial commerce with Tibet both in Indian and in British goods, ought to be practicable; and Bengal would receive what was very much needed, a plentiful supply of gold. They asked for samples of Tibetan wool and of such other commodities as could be profitably exported to Europe.<sup>126</sup> Their policy in this respect was in keeping with their keenness in general for promoting trade with countries north-east of Bengal. In their letter dated 27 March 1787 they reiterated this policy. Since it appeared to be difficult, if not altogether impracticable, to carry on regular trade with Tibet by way of Nepal, the Bengal Government was instructed to cultivate the goodwill and friendship of the ruler of Bhutan, because Bhutan formed another route for the passes into Tibet. With a view to strengthening friendly relations with the Lama the Court concurred in the proposal of building a Tibetan temple at Calcutta. The Court repeated, "upon the whole, the necessity of encouraging a commercial intercourse with the territories of the Grand Lama, the inhabitants of which carry on a very considerable traffic with the Chinese and Northern Tartars is so apparent that we have only to recommend it to your serious attention".<sup>127</sup>

The high hopes entertained by the Court, however, were not to be realized. Just at about this time there were serious disputes between Nepal and Tibet and the latter asked for the Company's military aid. Sir John Macpherson refused to get involved and Cornwallis continued this policy of non-intervention, not to the great liking of the Lama. Meanwhile under the pretext of protecting it from Nepal, China overran the country.<sup>128</sup> We do not come across a single reference to Tibet in the letters to Court. The passes into Tibet were thus sealed up for more than a century.

#### *Trade with Assam*

Moved by the memorials of Hugh Baillie, the Court of Directors evinced interest in Assam trade in 1771, when they enjoined upon the Bengal Government to survey the possibilities of establishing trade with Assam and Bhutan. However, it was only in 1780 that the Bengal Government granted monopoly for Assamese trade to David Kellican for four years. But it was annulled by the Court in 1782. In 1784 Henry Lodge proposed a scheme for government management of Assam trade through the British Resident at Goalpara and requested that he be appointed, as such for a term of five years. In their letter of 14 March 1786, the Court examined at length the entire question of the Assamese trade with particular reference to the scheme proposed by Lodge. They admitted its advantages but rejected Lodge's proposal, as they were opposed to exclusive government monopoly in the matter. Besides, they apprehended that the Government expenses involved in such monopolistic trade would be

126. LFC, 14 Mar. 1786, paras 51-3.

127. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 253-6.

128. Colonel (William) Kirkpatrick, *An account of the Kingdom of Nepaul* (London, 1811), pp 345-52.

rather heavy. The only exclusive trade they permitted to be conducted solely by the Government was in salt, for salt had been a monopoly of the government at all times. The Resident at Goalpara was to act as their agent for this purpose. In view of Hugh Baillie's experience of eighteen years' residence in Assam and he being the original author of the scheme for opening trade with Assam, he was appointed the Company's Resident at Goalpara. They ordered the trade in all other articles to be completely free and open and threatened the Resident with punishment if he attempted to deal in them. Baillie was given a salary of Rs. 1,000 p.m., 7% commission on the sale of goods and Rs. 200 p.m. for maintaining a *cutcherry* (office).<sup>129</sup>

*Mugha-dhutis* formed a principle part of the exports from Assam. Their different varieties dyed in assorted colours were ordered along with *mugha* silk and *munjit* or madder (an article used in dyeing). The idea was to try them in the African market. To save the demand on the specie from Bengal treasury by Madras and Bombay it was ordered that sale of *mugha-dhutis* should be attempted in those provinces. Instructions were also issued to send up specimens of any other produce, growth or manufacture of Assam which could be introduced with advantage in England.<sup>130</sup>

Baillie returned to India in July, 1787, and only then the Fort William Board could give effect to the orders of the Court. Cornwallis gave Baillie a letter of accreditation to the Assam Raja and asked him to carry some presents. Baillie launched upon his work with great enthusiasm, making arrangements for transporting salt to Goalpara from Dacca, and carefully selecting presents for the Assam Raja. He left for Goalpara in October 1787, but met with a boat disaster and consequently travelled by land and could reach there only in the beginning of 1788.<sup>131</sup>

Assamese trade was carried on partly by barter and partly for gold and silver. The goods received in return for salt were black pepper, *mugha-dhutis*, *mugha* silk, sticklac and *munjit*, quantities varying according to annual production. The Assamese demand for salt was steady and goods from Assam could always be sold at a profit at Calcutta, Murshidabad etc. Baillie strongly recommended that no merchant be allowed to carry salt beyond Rangmati, otherwise its smuggling into Assam could not be prevented. Thus indirectly the exercise of monopoly in salt virtually ended free trade in other articles of Assam produce, and there was no scope for private trade by individuals. Consequently there were protests against the Fort William Board's decisions and Baillie's appointment, but the Board took no action on these protests.<sup>132</sup>

129. LFC, 14 Mar. 1786, paras 23-49; 12 April 1786, para 159; 27 Mar. 1787, para 230; LTC, 31 July 1787, paras 64-8.

130. LFC, 11 April 1785, list of investment; 14 Mar. 1786, para 49; 12 April 1786, para 108.

131. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 230; Seton-Karr, *op. cit.*, I, p. 191; *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, VII, p. 383; LTC 31 July 1787, paras 64-8; 15 Dec. 1787, paras 142-3.

132. Bengal Revenue Proceedings, 27 July 1787; *Ringpore* (District Records), V, p. 215.

Baillie's commercial transactions in Assam, however, were not very successful. During the first year of his Residentsip his transactions in Assam goods amounted to only about Rs. 42,000, and he could dispose off barely 10,000 maunds of salt. He attributed his failure to the ravages of civil war in Assam and a dreadful famine about that time, "calamities which could neither be foreseen nor prevented." There were also depredations by freebooters from Bengal. In January 1789 Raja Gaurinath Singha of Assam fled to Gauhati owing to the renewed hostilities of a sect known as Moamarias. The political situation became most uncertain. All in all the purchasing power of the Assamese was greatly reduced and no trade could flourish under such conditions. Baillie asked for and was granted another year to try the experiment, but the civil dissensions in Assam continued unabated. Consequently Baillie himself recommended the withdrawal of the Goalpara Residency and in 1790 Fort William Board passed orders to that effect.<sup>133</sup>

### *Commercial Relations with Oudh*

The main article of trade in Oudh was cloth, the value of which in 1786-87 amounted to about Rs. 2,90,000. There was some trade in salt, cotton grown on the southern banks of the Jamuna and also that which passed from the Deccan on its way to Bengal, saltpetre (maximum transactions of 50,000 maunds at Rs. 2.50 per maund), indigo from Etawah and a little opium from Benares, but all this was much less than that of cloth.<sup>134</sup> In February 1787 Cornwallis deputed G. H. Barlow to Oudh to investigate into the conditions of cloth manufacture, general trade conditions and investment possibilities. Barlow submitted a detailed report on 27 May 1787. His main finding was that the Company's investment in the cloth trade in Oudh was highly injurious to all parties concerned. The East India Company used to give advances to weavers and consequently had the right of pre-emption. Thus Indian merchants were excluded from buying cloth most of which was already booked by the Company, and there was virtual monopoly of the Company. The price was dictated by the purchasers who were not always very honest. The Company's agents expected the weavers all the time to attend to their demands not allowing them to undertake any other additional job which would give them some profits. The Company's cloth was usually provided at Tanda and Allahabad and in both places the Company had the right of pre-emption. The Nawab Vazir's Government also suffered mainly on account of the exemption from duties enjoyed by the English merchants and evasion by Indian merchants under the English flag; consequently its revenue from customs fell from 5 lakhs in 1776 to 1½ lakhs in 1785. According to Barlow even the Company's profits from its investment in Oudh was not worthwhile. The amount invested was small and the type of cloth from Oudh could easily be procured from Bihar at much less cost. He, therefore recommended absolute withdrawal of the Company's

133. Bengal Revenue Proceedings, 18 Mar. 1789, and 25 Sep. 1789: S. K. Bhuyan, *Anglo-Assamese Relations*, pp. 169, 173-9, 224-30.

134. Foreign Secret Proceedings, 6 June 1787, Barlow's Report.

investment in Oudh which would not injure the Company but would benefit the merchants.<sup>135</sup>

Cornwallis fully agreed with Barlow and on 1 October 1787 ordered the Resident at Oudh—"In order to revive free trade, which is absolutely necessary for the prosperity of Oudh, as well as the Company, there is to be no investment in Oudh on the Company's account. Prevent all claims of exemption from duties, all pretensions to a right of pre-emption, in a word all undue influence on the part of the Europeans tending to create monopolies or any other improper advantages above the Vazir's own subjects". The privilege of exemption from duties, which afforded individuals with opportunities "to practice most scandalous frauds and oppressions" was given up save in case of articles intended for the consumption of the Company's troops stationed in Oudh, when not for resale, which was duly provided for in the agreement of 20 October 1787.<sup>136</sup>

Cornwallis had instructed the Resident at Oudh also to negotiate "a commercial treaty which should save British subjects, European or Indian, from undue exactions". This treaty was accordingly signed between the Company and the Nawab-Vazir of Oudh to come into force from 1 September 1788 if not sooner. But this well-intentioned treaty in effect remained a dead letter mainly owing to the general lack of efficiency in the Nawab-Vazir's Government and the corruption in his customs department.<sup>137</sup>

#### *Trade by Other European Companies and Illicit Trade*

The Correspondence under study does not give enough details for a clear picture of the commercial activities of other European Companies such as the French or the Dutch. A commercial convention was concluded between the English and the French Companies in 1786 at Mauritius but details of the negotiations are to be found among Foreign Department Records. The Home Government pointed out that the Fort William Board had no legal powers to conclude such a convention. However, negotiations were taken over by the French and the British governments in Europe, and the convention was agreed to in an amended form in 1787. Meanwhile the Court of Directors urged the Fort William Board that Indian contractors should be prohibited from providing goods to other European Companies.<sup>138</sup> This was not possible since freedom of trade had already been conceded to the French. Custom-house duties had also been abolished on direct trade by foreign Companies in order to remove grounds for dispute.<sup>139</sup> The French took advantage of the situation by trying to wean away established weavers in the English Company's service through lavish advances. Lord Cornwallis insisted on the East India

135. LTC, 6 Mar. 1787, paras 11-2; 27 July 1787, para 17; Foreign Secret Proceedings, 6 June 1787.

136. LTC, 4 Mar. 1787; 27 July 1787, paras 16-8; 16 Nov. 1787, para 5; Foreign Secret Proceedings, 24 Oct. and 8 Nov. 1787.

137. LTC, 16 Nov. 1787, paras 3-5; 3 Mar. 1788, paras 26-8; 3 Nov. 1788, para 2.

138. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 279.

139. LTC, 3 Nov. 1788, para 4.

Company's right of pre-emption. "All be allowed to trade but according to priority of engagements and advances to receive the returns," he declared.<sup>140</sup> However, though there was a sudden spurt in the French commercial activity during this period, it was like the last flicker of a dying flame. On the eve of the French Revolution the French Company had not really succeeded in doing much business in Bengal. They had received bullion for the purpose rather late and their agents at subordinate factories had been withdrawn.<sup>141</sup>

The freedom of trade conceded to other European Companies in principle had, however, another very important aspect. They provided the necessary means and cover for clandestine trade, which was considerable in those days. The foreign companies negotiated transferable bills of exchange by English merchants at a higher rate of discount. The cash thus obtained could be used for providing foreign ships with cargoes. Foreigners also deposited money in London banking houses in favour of Indian merchants who provided them with the required goods.<sup>142</sup> While the English East India Company was legally concentrating Indian goods at the London market for sale and distribution to the outside world, ships used to be freighted at Copenhagen, Ostend and Lisbon for illicit traffic and smuggled goods used to be sold in the European markets, many times with the assistance of the Company's own servants and commanders of ships. They had become so bold as to even insert advertisements in the available Calcutta newspapers offering such goods.<sup>143</sup> Interlopers carried illicit trade aboard ships displaying foreign flags, but diamonds and India and China goods of all kinds were smuggled from the Company's ships as well.<sup>144</sup> The Directors were undoubtedly aware of the nature of this illicit trade. While exposing the corruption in the Commercial Department they openly made a charge that their servants were remitting illicitly choicest articles to various European markets and making a profit of 3s. 9d. per rupee. Captains and mates on stopping at Maderia to buy the Company's wine often conspired with the leading wine merchants to put the Company's wine 'pipes' which gauged many gallons less than the number of gallons written on the invoice. The excess went into the 'pipes' shipped on the officers' own behalf.<sup>145</sup> The Court had well founded suspicions about this illicit traffic in Maderia wine and wanted full reports about the same.<sup>146</sup>

To put a check on clandestine trade the Court suggested that a register of ships carrying foreign colours be kept in the Customs Houses.<sup>147</sup> In fact, provision had been made by Parliament in its Act of 1786 that an officer of 7 years' standing or the Chief Supercargo (in case of ships bound for China) should certify the manifest of

140. LTC, 1 Nov. 1788, para 28.

141. *Ibid.*, para 27.

142. LTC, 3 July 1786, paras 34-5.

143. LFC, 14 Mar. 1786, paras 4-5.

144. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 130.

145. Furber, *op. cit.*, p. 283.

146. LFC, 12 April 1786, para 130.

147. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, paras 243-4.

goods in the freighted ships and such attested manifests were to be transmitted to England by the Captains.<sup>148</sup> Custom-duties on 'drugs' were reduced in U.K. so that those dealing in them clandestinely should no longer find the trade profitable. But such measures, however, were of little avail so long as the commanders and other officers of ships could sell or otherwise abuse their 'privilege' (i.e., a certain amount of tonnage which they could utilise for goods on their own). No one felt hampered by the prescribed tonnage, though the Directors threatened the guilty servants with dismissal.

### *Fort Marlbro' Administration*

The Company's settlement at Benkulen, also known as Fort Marlbro', on the western coast of Sumatra, had been a Residency under a Deputy-Governor-in-Council since 1754, subordinate to the Presidency of Fort St. George. In 1759, it was raised to the status of an independent Presidency and it remained so till 1785, but its establishment expenses were in no way proportionate to the gains or advantages derived from it; hence in April 1785 it was again reduced to the status of a Residency, but this time it was made subordinate to the Bengal Presidency. On its take-over by Fort William the first important step taken by the Court was reduction in salaries of the civil establishment and curtailment of the military establishment, with a view to bringing down the maintenance costs. The Fort William Board, however, brought to the notice of the Court the distress to civil officers by such drastic reduction in allowances,<sup>149</sup> whereupon the Court favourably revised the salaries of the civilians.<sup>150</sup> The absorption of the surplus military personnel into Bengal army presented ticklish problems of seniority which were left to the discretion of the Board.<sup>151</sup> They were, however, sanctioned the same salaries as those of Bengal army officers.<sup>152</sup> As an economy measure it was further ordered that only necessary buildings be retained and others be sold off. The arrack distillery managed by the Company was also to be sold off and repairs to military works done as cheaply as possible.<sup>153</sup>

Despite these economy measures the Fort Marlbro' Residency annually required 10,000 Spanish dollars to run the administration and to buy pepper. The civil establishment was to be paid in paper currency and were permitted to draw bills of exchange on the Court; instead they drew them upon the Fort William Board against which the Board remonstrated.<sup>154</sup> The Court decided that the troops retained at Fort Marlbro' should be paid partly in copper.<sup>155</sup> This was with a view to promoting export of copper from England. In 1788

148. LFC, 31 July 1787, paras 179-80.

149. LTC, 25 Mar. 1786, paras 42-3.

150. LFC, 31 July 1787 (Separate), para 2.

151. *Ibid*, para 19.

152. *Ibid*, para 21.

153. *Ibid*, paras 24-5.

154. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 50.

155. LFC, 31 July 1787 (Separate), para 22.

copper coins minted in England were sent directly as well as from Bengal. But the administration there found that these copper coins did not easily circulate, consequently further shipments were stopped.<sup>156</sup> The Court specifically instructed the Fort William Board that instead of sending specie Bengal goods saleable in Sumatra should be sent as far as possible to provide Fort Marlbro' with funds for investment. At least 200 chests of opium, invoiced at 250 Spanish dollars per chest, could be sent there and efforts made for increasing the sale upto another 200 chests. Sale of *punjum* cloth was also to be tried. Similarly trade in gold, camphor and benzoin from Nattal and Tappanuli was to be explored. The annual pepper production in Fort Marlbro' was 1500 tons of which 700 tons were earmarked for China and the rest for England.<sup>157</sup>

On account of its reduced status judicial administration of Fort Marlbro' posed a problem. The old charter of justice was no longer valid. The Court sought a new one from the British Government whereby the chief of Fort Marlbro's Residency could also act as Justice of the Peace. Cases beyond his competence were ordered to be sent up to Bengal.<sup>158</sup>

An important result of the new set-up was the manumission granted to slaves. They were to be paid fair wages for their labour and those too old to work were to be given small pensions.<sup>159</sup>

### *Acquisition of Penang*

During the latter half of the 18th Century the Company's trade with China had been steadily expanding. But the growing number of China-bound ships were seriously hampered by the lack of any refitting station under English control during the long voyage to Canton. Equally important was the need for a naval base where men-of-war could be refitted and repaired, particularly in the north-east monsoon. Warships could not safely remain on the Coromandel Coast during this season. A settlement somewhere on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal, which was well protected during the north-east monsoon, was very desirable from this point of view. These considerations were coupled with other motives; a desire to stem the growing power of the Dutch in the Malay Peninsula and a hope to recover a share at least, of its once flourishing spice trade, from which the Company had been driven out by the Dutch. Penang was a perfect answer to all these problems. It commanded the northern entrance to the Straits of Malacca. With an area of 108 sq. miles, it resembled an irregular quadrilateral. It had an excellent sheltered harbour, it lay right in the track of China-bound ships; it could be reached from Madras or Calcutta within six weeks in the worst of seasons. It was strategically situated for men-of-war as well as

156. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788 (Commercial), para 5.

157. LFC, 31 July 1787 (Separate), paras 26-33.

158. *Ibid.*, para 34.

159. *Ibid.*, para 5.

mercantile vessels. Given an opportunity it could easily develop into an emporium of the eastern trade.<sup>160</sup>

Several proposals had been made for such a convenient settlement on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal between 1763 and 1786.<sup>161</sup> In 1736 the Madras Government had sent a Mr. Kinloch to secure a factory site at Achin but did not succeed. Capt. Thomas Forrest, the celebrated navigator, who held a sort of roving commission from the Company met with no better luck. It was in 1771 that the Sultan of Keda (an important state in Malay Peninsula) first made the offer of Penang to Capt. Francis Light, an ex-naval officer of the Company, who had then been trading in the Malay Archipelago on behalf of a Madras firm. Anarchy prevailed almost without intermission in most of the Malayan states and Keda suffered particularly because of its powerful neighbours Siam and Burma. The Sultan made the offer with a view to securing military aid and protection against his neighbours. Light passed on the proposal to the Company whose Madras servants sent Edward Moncton to negotiate. Young and inexperienced, he failed particularly owing to the Company's reluctance to involved itself in military commitments. In 1779 Capt. Light who had moved on to Junk Ceylon (i.e. modern Upjong Salong) represented that it could be easily secured. But the news of war with France frustrated Hastings's acceptance of the proposal. The tactics of the French navy during the war once again brought home to the Company the need for a naval base to the east of the Bay of Bengal. The loss of American colonies served as a further stimulant to seek new markets in the East. Warren Hastings, therefore, commissioned Capt. Forrest to secure a settlement from the Malay princes. The king of Rhio made an offer but before it could be finalised he died whilst fighting the Dutch. The fall of Rhio, the only safe Malayan port for English merchants, was a serious blow. The Dutch were resuming their stronghold on other Malay States such as Selangor, and Rhio had been punished for trying to open its ports to all nations. In February 1786 Sir John Macpherson had received a letter from Rhio asking for support<sup>162</sup> but because of the peace with the Dutch no action was taken. Under these circumstances when Capt. Light once again pushed forth the Penang project and secured its grant from the new young Sultan of Keda, Abdullah Mukarram Shah, it was gratefully accepted.

An expedition set out on 16th May 1786 headed by Capt. Light.<sup>163</sup> Light was not a servant of the Company but in view of his knowledge of the Malay and Siamese languages, the high esteem in which he was held by the Malay chiefs and above all his particular acquaintance with the eastern trade, he was given a commission as Superintendent of the Island and Harbour of Penang.<sup>164</sup> He took possession of it on 11 August 1786 and immediately commenced

160. LTC, 25 Mar. 1786, paras 46-9.

161. H. P. Clodd, *Malaya's First British Pioneers*, Chapters I-III.

162. *C.P.C.*, Vol. VII, p. 153.

163. LTC, 21 Aug. 1786, para 54.

164. LTC, 25 Mar. 1786, paras 50-1.

clearing the country and constructing a fort.<sup>165</sup> The island was re-named Prince of Wales Island, its occupation coinciding with the birthday of the Prince. But though the Company used the new name in its correspondence for some years, it relapsed into its original Malayan name afterwards.

The project involved considerable expense, at a time of financial stringency. Besides a detachment of troops and ordnance stores twenty thousand Spanish dollars had been furnished to Capt. Light.<sup>166</sup> Between May 1787 and March 1788 he was again furnished with more than a lakh and a half of current rupees.<sup>167</sup> In November 1788 another 20 thousand Spanish dollars were retained for the island.<sup>168</sup> But the settlement was well worth its expenses and its continuance was no longer in doubt. Its utility as a naval station was to be investigated by an officer of the Fort Marlbro' establishment. But its commercial potentialities were flattering. It could easily become an extensive mart for the barter of opium and other Bengal products, for tin, pepper and other commodities to be applied as funds in the Chinese markets for purchasing tea. The drain on specie for China could thus be curbed. To attract commerce it was decided to keep the port duty-free. But Light's suggestion of attracting Malay trading vessels by affording them protection against the Dutch was turned down. The Company was anxious not to insult the Dutch. From the same cause any armed support to Keda or any other Malay power was peremptorily refused—a policy which invited troubles and later led to an attack by Keda. Light was directed to 'endeavour to cultivate the good will of all'. However, Bombay Government was to send an armed vessel of 14 guns and two armed galliots for the defence of the island. As compensation to the Sultan of Keda Light was authorised to pay some amounts by instalments.

The Company had great trust in Capt. Light. He combined knowledge of Malaya with calm disposition and moderate temper. He was given an allowance of a thousand rupees p.m. He could admit any colonists he thought fit and parcel out lands to them.<sup>169</sup> Under his able guidance, the settlement made good progress and private reports of its prosperity were officially confirmed. On 6th March 1788, the Board informed the Court, "This settlement is in a flourishing condition and we hope will be made productive to the Company as a Medium of supply to Canton". The Court though aware of the Colony's commercial and political importance reserved its comments for want of further full reports.<sup>170</sup>

By 1788 the colony attracted numerous settlers. Naturally there was a large adventurer element among them. Cornwallis urged the setting up of a properly constituted judiciary for trial of increasing

165. LTC, 19 Feb. 1787, para 51.

166. *Ibid.*, para 53.

167. LTC, 6 Mar. 1788, para 69.

168. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, para 254.

169. LTC, 19 Feb. 1787, paras 56-66.

170. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 51.

offences there.<sup>171</sup> But not till 1870 was the demand met. Meanwhile, as H. P. Clodd points out, 'the historic remark regarding snakes in Ireland that there were none' could be applied with equal truth to law and order in the early days of the Penang settlement. Light had been instructed to preserve good order as best as he could. He delegated petty cases to the headmen of the principal Asiatic communities who were designated as Captain China, Captain Chulia etc. He himself dealt with more serious cases and dispensed a sort of common justice.<sup>172</sup>

### *Benares Zamindari : Grant & Duncan*

After the flight and deposition of Chait Singh from Benares in 1781, Mahipnarain Singh was proclaimed the Raja of Benaras and his father, Durgavijaya Singh, was appointed as *Naib*. A treaty was concluded whereby the Raja was to pay Rs. 40 lakhs per annum as tribute to the Company. The administration of mints, and the right to levy fees and maintain fortresses was taken away from the Raja. Revenue administration nominally remained in the Raja's hands but virtually was supervised by the *Naib* and the Company's Resident at Benares who saw to it that the tribute was regularly paid. The Raja was a nominal head while the *Naib* was responsible for the administration. But real power resided in the Company and its agents who accepted no responsibility for peace, order or good government. The Raja had been reduced to a mere figure-head and the people of Benares were very unwilling to submit to the Raja's administration, because they had "marked the subjection in which he had been placed by Hastings" and thus felt but "little attachment to his person or respect for his power". Benares had long been deficient in law and order. There were no regular courts of justice nor, a system of police. The life and property of citizens was always insecure. Efforts of Hastings to improve matters in these respects bore no fruit.<sup>173</sup>

Early in 1786 James Grant was appointed Resident at Benares on Francis Fowke's resignation.<sup>174</sup> Grant had some ability and showed apparent solicitude for the welfare of the peasantry in submitting a plan for the revenue settlement of Benares. But the Fort William Board considered it as undue interference in the internal affairs of the *zamindari* and left the Raja to assess the districts as he thought proper. Grant's seeming concern for peasants was completely overshadowed by his corruption and rapacity, in which he equalled if not surpassed, his predecessor. He monopolised the manufacture of lime and the whole of the sugar trade of Benares. Though Grant wielded real power he delegated administration to a rapacious Muslim, Sher Jang, who in turn appointed favourite dependents. Sher Jang also treated the Raja with open contempt. When Cornwallis assumed office, Raja Mahipnarayan Singh sent him a

171. LTC, 6 Mar. 1788, paras 40-1.

172. *Op. cit.*, p. 94.

173. Warren Hastings, *A Narrative of Insurrection at Benares*, pp. 22-5; G. R. Gleig *Memoirs of Hastings*, III, p. 194.

174. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 138.

representation levelling many charges against Grant of corruption, nepotism, oppression and undue influence. Cornwallis recalled Grant and asked for his explanation. Enquiry into Grant's conduct took considerable time.<sup>175</sup> Meanwhile the Residency at Benares in respect of revenues was first placed under the Board of Revenue and then in July 1787 Jonathan Duncan, a covenanted servant of approved integrity, experience and ability, was appointed as the Resident of Benares to clean the Augean stables. Convinced that Grant's corrupt practices originated partly from his inadequate allowances (Rs. 1000 p.m.) which he was permitted to make up with customary perquisites Cornwallis raised Duncan's salary to *Sikka* Rs. 5000 p.m. with no perquisites.<sup>176</sup>

When Duncan took charge of Benares he found many *parganas* in a state of decay and revenue a way of extortion from every class of people. He had been asked to associate the Raja with the administration of the *zamindari*, so he left the Raja to make the actual revenue settlement for 1787-88 confining himself to only making suggestions. To begin with, the Raja agreed to rent out the lands to reliable landholders at moderate rents and to abolish certain taxes obstructive to commerce.<sup>177</sup> But when in the beginning of 1788 Duncan toured the *zamindari* he found that the Raja had not implemented his advice; consequently many *parganas* were no better than waste and the entire region was reduced to an alarming state of decay. When Cornwallis came to know of it he decided not to rely upon the Raja any longer for improving the *zamindari* and gave greater latitude to Duncan in revenue administration. With a free hand Duncan set about effecting reforms in the revenue administration of Benares which turned out to have far-reaching benefits. He adopted a uniform standard of measure, commuted the rent to cash at a fixed rate, abolished all cesses imposed since 1779 and amalgamated the rest with the rental demand, and introduced a universal system of lease for each cultivator. Lighter rates of rent for waste lands, advance of *tacavi* loans, strengthening of *qanungo*'s powers and setting of proper courts for revenue cases were some of his other measures of reform. The revenue administration of Benares for subsequent years was carried on along the lines thus laid down by Duncan during this period and it resulted in vast improvement of agriculture and welfare of the peasantry.<sup>178</sup>

After the expulsion of Chait Singh, the flourishing trade of Benares had decayed as a result of numerous illegal exactions, double taxation, wayside robberies and ill-treatment of merchants by the Raja's officers. The efforts of Warren Hastings to improve matters had failed. Cornwallis, therefore, asked G. H. Barlow in May 1787 to make an inquiry into Benares trade and the causes of its

175. LTC, 3 Mar. 1788, para 25.

176. Secret & Political Proceedings, 20 Sep. 1786; Bengal Revenue Proceedings, 13 July 1787; Ross, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 282-3; LTC, 27 July 1787, para 106; 31 July 1787, paras 55-9; 18 Aug. 1787, para 3.

177. LTC, 16 Nov. 1787, para 8.

178. Bengal Revenue Proceedings, 19 Oct. 1787, 3 Oct. 1788; 8 Dec. 1788, 17 June 1789, LTC, 16 Nov. 1787, para 8; 3 Nov. 1788, para 3.

decline, and to suggest remedies. Barlow's report revealed the deplorable state of customs department: the oppressive system of farming out of customs duties, the multiplicity of taxes (many of them illegal), the iniquity of levies made on the basis of an arbitrary book of rates by corrupt officials. First of all Duncan abolished all illegal exactions and ordered the levies on silk and cotton goods to be made by valuation declared in the Company's pass accompanying the goods. Export duties on goods manufactured in Benares were reduced. Commercial courts of justice to settle disputes between merchants and customs officials were set up. Measures were taken to protect merchants and their goods from robberies and rains. All these reforms immensely improved the commerce of Benares *Zamindari*.<sup>179</sup> As investment in Oudh cloth had been discontinued, the Company was now keen to procure Benares cloth instead but could not avoid *dalali* system in procuring it.<sup>180</sup> Benares was then also the principal mart for diamonds, pearls and other precious stones and in 1786 a London merchant also secured permission for his agent to deal in them; many covenanted servants and others already had licenses for this trade.<sup>181</sup> Opium from Benares was another profitable product. Earlier it was a personal monopoly of the Resident, but on Duncan's take-over it was managed for the Company. To prevent oppression the quantity to be purchased was reduced, but since Duncan managed to procure it cheaply there was no consequent decrease in profit.<sup>182</sup>

By virtue of authority given by the Fort William Board, Duncan also undertook reforms in judicial administration in 1788. He established regular courts of justice at Mirzapur, Ghazipur and Jaunpur and appointed Indian judges of good character to those courts. He was authorised to hear cases in appeal from these courts. The *mulki diwani* and the *faujdari adalat*, established in 1786, were also reorganised and streamlined. Salaries of the judges were raised to ensure honesty in them. The judges in Benares and other towns were asked to act as magistrates, and police arrangements in Benares town and the rural areas were strengthened to ensure law and order.<sup>183</sup>

### Calcutta Police

It was surprising but nevertheless true that Calcutta, the capital of Bengal, had no legally constituted police force in 1786. Some police did exist, but for exercising authority they were liable to be punished by the Supreme Court of Judicature since they acted without legal sanction. Macpherson had appointed a second Superintendent of Police, but that was not of much avail. Previously the approaches to the town both by river and road were being guarded at night by a special body of watchmen, and that had curbed the

179. Home Public Proceedings, 26 Dec. 1787, 26 Mar. 1788, 11 June 1788.

180. LTC, 15 Dec. 1787, paras 67-8; 1 Nov. 1788, para 32; 6 Nov. 1788, paras 213-7.

181. LFC, 8 Mar. 1786, paras 8-11; 31 July 1787 (Commercial), para 17; *Asiatic Annual Register* for 1800, Miscellaneous Tracts, p. 90.

182. LTC, 3 Mar. 1788, paras 23-4.

183. LTC, 3 Mar. 1788, para 22, Bengal Revenue Proceedings, 28 Nov. and 17 Dec. 1788; A Shakespeare, *Selections from Duncan Records*, I, pp. 56-8 and Appendix I.

nocturnal wanderings of suspicious characters and prevented landings and departing from different *ghats* at odd hours. But as a measure of economy this establishment of night patrols was disbanded in February 1786, even though the tax levied on the townsfolk for its maintenance continued to be levied thereafter.

The real difficulty lay in the fact that there were very few specially appointed magistrates in the town to dispose of petty criminal cases, which were of daily occurrence and needed regular daily interposition of such magistrates. There was only one Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in Calcutta which functioned only twice a year. The judges of the Supreme Court did not like to act as Justices of the Peace as it was a burdensome addition to their duties. The Fort William Board could no doubt hold courts of Quarter Sessions but its members were too busy to function as Justices of the Peace as well. The Court of Requests, functioning in the town, was incompetent to discharge these duties; its jurisdiction was restricted to suits involving not more than twenty rupees.

It was obviously of little use to arrest offenders who could not be tried and punished; hence the two Police Superintendents themselves exercised magisterial powers. The origin of such powers could be traced to the *zamindari* courts (*cutcheries*) of the Mughal times, where cases both civil and criminal were summarily heard and decided. But this exercise of magisterial functions by the Police Superintendents was against the spirit of the laws of England and could only be justifiable upon grounds of absolute necessity. The Superintendents unlawfully exercised not merely criminal but civil jurisdiction also, which was even more incompatible with the nature of their office. They settled petty civil suits as the Police Superintendent's was the only office where a creditor for more than twenty rupees could apply.

Proposals by the Bengal Government to legalise these magisterial functions of the police, by making a bye-law for the purpose, had been previously turned down by the Home authorities on the ground that such a bye-law would be contrary to the Laws of the Realm. Nor could the Bengal Government derive any authority from provisions of the Regulating Act for that purpose. Therefore early in 1788 Cornwallis got prepared a draft Police Bill to be submitted to the Parliament for giving the Bengal Government more extensive powers to enforce good order in the town of Calcutta. It could, however, be sent to England only in November 1788.<sup>184</sup>

Meanwhile the conditions in Calcutta presented the picture of a lawless state as the criminals who could bribe the constabulary had no fear of being brought to book. As it was, the constabulary was simply insufficient for such a big town. The Police Superintendents were very corrupt and accepted bribes not only from the suitors but also from their subordinates who in their turn reimbursed themselves from commissions on the wages of constables, who extorted money from the public. So corrupt was the constabulary that

184. LTC, 3 Mar. 1788, para 30; 6 Mar. 1788, para 1-25, 42; 6 Nov. 1788, paras 295, 307-8.

ultimately in December 1788 Cornwallis was constrained to appoint a committee of three civil servants to investigate a series of charges brought against the Superintendents and to suggest reforms.

### *Development of Diamond Harbour and Ship-building*

We come across in the Correspondence a few references to the development of a new harbour at Diamond Point. These do not add up to a detailed picture but are adequate to give us some indications of the lines along which progress was being made. Traditionally Khijiri in 24-Parganas (referred to in this Correspondence as Kedgerree) was the harbour for Calcutta-bound ships. It was sufficiently deep but over the years it had become rather narrow for the larger vessels. Besides, it was becoming dangerous too. Too many seamen were risking and losing their lives owing to its "unhealthiness". The Fort William Board, therefore, decided to develop Diamond Point as an alternative harbour. To begin with, mooring chains were laid at a total cost of more than three and a half lakhs of current rupees, and warehouses were constructed on the shore for the use of anchored ships. The expense no doubt was considerable; it included 10% commission to be given to the Marine Paymaster and the Master Attendant for the attention they had given to the work from its commencement.<sup>185</sup> The capital costs, could be realised by charging fees from the owners and captains of ships for using the moorings and the warehouses on a monthly basis. Experience of two years showed up the advantages of the new moorings. In a season more sickly than usual the number of mariners who lost their lives on ten ships at Diamond Point was less than that of those who died at Khijiri in one ship. The ship-owners themselves proclaimed the benefits of the new harbour.<sup>186</sup> The Court of Directors, therefore, approved of the project and sent additional equipment such as bridle chains, shackles, mooring swivels, iron hoops for buoys, anchors etc. They demanded a draft plan of the harbour to have an idea of how the actual moorings were laid.<sup>187</sup> There were difficulties, however, in realising the costs of the project from the ship-owners. Originally it was decided to charge them *sikka* Rs. 800 p.m.<sup>188</sup> but the ship-owners considered the fees as too high. The Court intervened and there was a meeting between the owners, and the Directors to consider this question. Negotiations, however, broke down as there could be no agreement on the fees.<sup>189</sup> The matter was left to the discretion of the Fort William Board who decided to charge *sikka* Rs. 500 p.m. for the use of the mooring chains. The warehouses could be utilised by the Commercial Department. Even the reduced fees were considered as too high by the captains.<sup>190</sup> Moreover, Diamond Point was too far off for loading the ships quickly and cheaply. We find that the bigger vessels proceeded to Sagar Islands instead.<sup>191</sup>

185. LTC, 27 July 1787, para 103.

186. LTC, 6 Mar. 1787, paras 6-7.

187. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, paras 2-6.

188. LTC, 6 Mar. 1787, para 7.

189. LFC, 9 April 1788.

190. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 153-8.

191. LTC, 15 Dec. 1787, paras 69-71.

Meanwhile Benjamin Lacam had submitted his proposal for construction of dry docks etc. at the New Harbour. The Board appointed a committee of "gentlemen of professional Experience" comprising experienced seamen, the Company's marine officers and commanders of ships to go into the question. The committee was supplied with necessary stores and instruments. They were to examine (a) safety and practicability of the channel leading to the New Harbour, (b) whether the New Harbour could receive the larger vessels of the Company and of His Majesty and (c) whether construction of dry docks could be undertaken. The committee submitted its report but more pressing business appears to have delayed its consideration by the Board.<sup>192</sup>

As regards ship-building it may be noticed that the shipping interests of England were protected by the Act of Parliament which permitted imports from India to Great Britain only through British-built vessels.<sup>193</sup> But the Company required vessels of various kinds for navigation in the Hooghly and elsewhere and these could be ordered to be built at Bombay. Ocean-going vessels required to be sheathed in copper for expeditious voyages, while smaller craft did not need such protection.<sup>194</sup> There was a proposal to build 'coppered' ships at Calcutta but it was dropped as they could be built at Bombay at much less expense. The Indian master-builders and the Bombay dockyard enjoyed some reputation for superior craftsmanship, durability and cheapness.<sup>195</sup> We find that the cost of building six pilot vessels at Bombay was two and a half lakhs of rupees.<sup>196</sup>

#### *Encouragement to Literature and Sciences*

Unlike most of the contemporary Indian powers, the early British rulers of India were distinguished by an all pervasive spirit of enquiry that animated and elevated their administration. They were fully aware of the fact that they had established their rule over an alien race and a foreign country. They were therefore keen to learn, whatever they could, about the land and its people. Their languages and their literatures, their laws and their land systems, their histories and customs, the country's geography and topography—every subject concerning their newly acquired possessions interested them immensely. To encourage the study of such subjects by their servants the Court of Directors granted generous subsidies and all other possible facilities. While explaining how the Court of Directors not only assented to the publication of his *An Account of the Kingdom of Nepaul* but patronised it with their 'accustomed liberality' William Kirkpatrick described the Court as "always ready to encourage even the humblest attempts to contribute to the stock of useful knowledge on every subject connected with India."<sup>197</sup> And this was a most fitting and apt description. The Fort William Board was also equally

192. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 125-30.

193. LTC, 3 Nov. 1788, para 36.

194. LTC, 6 Nov. 1788, paras 276-7.

195. LTC, 13 Nov. 1786, para 39.

196. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 31.

197. Preface.

enthusiastic in such matters. When orientalist Charles Wilkins, decided to 'retire to Europe' for three years to collect 'such materials and assistance in Europe for the prosecution of his extensive researches into Oriental literature' the Fort William Board not only readily granted him necessary permission but also strongly recommended him to the Court for their 'favourable notice'.<sup>198</sup>

Thus we find the Court of Directors subscribing to the publication of Joseph Champion's translation of Firdausi's *Shah Nama*,<sup>199</sup> Francis Gladwin's translation of *Ain-i-Akbari*,<sup>200</sup> Capt. William Kirkpatrick's grammar of Hindustani<sup>201</sup> and J. B. Gilchrist's dictionary and grammar of the same language.<sup>202</sup> The latter work was granted postage-free circulation and while recommending it to the notice of the Court the Fort William Board wrote, "..... as the work will be of infinite utility to your servants both civil and military and greatly facilitate the attainment of a knowledge in the Eastern Languages which is so highly necessary to the proper management of your concerns, we promised to recommend it to your notice and to that encouragement by subscription which it has been your invariable custom to give to productions of ability and labour".<sup>203</sup> Besides purchasing a number of copies (usually 50 or 100) of these works, the Court sanctioned liberal sums of money for similar works in progress. The modest endeavours of Capt. Charles Hamilton and the monumental work of that eminent scholar judge, Sir William Jones, in translating Muslim and Hindu laws were given equal encouragement. Hamilton was granted a special allowance of Rs. 250 p.m. till he could complete his translation of *Hedya*.<sup>204</sup> Cornwallis promised whatever financial assistance was necessary to Sir Jones for compiling a digest of Hindu and Muhammadan law with the help of Indian pundits and *maulavis*.<sup>205</sup> That prolific writer on oriental subjects, Francis Gladwin, was engaged in compiling 'History of Hindostan' and he was to be given every suitable encouragement and assistance.

Similarly the Court of Directors maintained sustained interest in the survey of various parts of India and its adjacent territories. The doyen of surveyors, Maj. James Rennell, had retired from the Company's service and was staying in England. But he had not ceased to advise the Court of Directors who had firm faith in his guidance. They, therefore, ordered that all original maps, charts, plans and other geographical and nautical information be sent to England from Bengal as well as other Presidencies. The construction of a general map on the basis of such materials could be undertaken by Maj. Rennell.<sup>206</sup> This appears to be a reflection on Lt. Col. Call whose

198. LTC, 6 Feb. 1786, para 17.

199. LFC, 27 Mar. 1786, para 62.

200. *Ibid.*, para 61.

201. *Ibid.*, para 63. Kirkpatrick, however, could not continue the work and gave up its publication. LTC, 12 Feb. 1788, para 36.

202. LFC, 28 Mar. 1788, para 35.

203. LTC, 17 Jan. 1787, para 20.

204. LTC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 213.

205. LTC, 13 Nov. 1788, paras 24-6.

206. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788, para 12.

general map of India was not yet ready for want of a sheet on Bengal. Call who was returning to England took such sheets as were ready for personal presentation to the Court.<sup>207</sup> But he was not destined to meet them. He died aboard the ship though the sheets of his map found their way to England.<sup>208</sup> The Court wanted only copying work to be done in India and they recommended Lt. R. H. Colebrooke (later Surveyor General) for this job. They made it clear that many maps were already in their possession and only those of new territories were to be sent to them.<sup>209</sup> Reuben Burrow was sent on a surveying expedition to Cheduba Island off the Arakan Coast.<sup>210</sup> On his assignment they remarked that he should confine himself to ascertaining the actual and relative positions of Fort St. George, Calcutta and Bombay precisely and to determining other intermediate positions such as Point de Galle and Cape Comorin. Specifically they ordered, "...no opportunity should be omitted of observing the Meridian Passage of the Moon, Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter and Occulations of fixed Stars by the Moon." His observations at Madras could be then compared with those of other astronomers. His proceedings as well as those of other surveyors were to be speedily sent to England without which work on such plans in England would come to a stop.<sup>211</sup> Among the maps they particularly asked for were those relating to the seas and islands round Fort Marlborough<sup>212</sup> and the survey journal kept by Rev. Smith during Col. Upton's embassy to Poona.<sup>213</sup> They ordered that Michael Topping, noted surveyor at Madras, be employed in surveying the opening of the Godavari into the sea, and also in surveying the eastern side of Bay of Bengal down to Penang and from Achin in Sumatra to the Straits of Sunda.<sup>214</sup> For making copies they sent transparent oil paper and presumably relying on details supplied by Rennell they went so far as to recommend use of China ink and lead pencil in copying work!<sup>215</sup> Cornwallis, however, was preoccupied with administrative reforms and we come across few references to maps being sent to England exceptions being Capt. Thomas Brown's plan of Benares<sup>216</sup> and a chart of the Straits of Rhio.<sup>217</sup>

More remarkable was the spirit of scientific experimentation exhibited by the Court of Directors which stands out in sharp contrast against the apathy and indifference in such matters of most of the luxury-loving Indian rulers of the time. A new building material for use in roofs had been invented by Sir James Wright and in

207. LTC, 22 Dec. 1788, para 50.

208. Col. R. H. Philimore, *Historical Records of the Survey of India*, Vol. I, pp. 215-7.

209. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788, para 25.

210. LTC, 29 June 1788, paras 17-8.

211. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788, paras 16-22.

212. LFC, 31 July 1788, para 7.

213. LFC, 21 July 1786, paras 13-4.

214. LFC, 20 Aug. 1788, para 28.

215. *Ibid.*, para 26.

216. LTC, 7 Mar. 1786, para 27.

217. LTC, 22 Dec. 1788, para 51.

compliance with his wishes the Court sent quantities of it to India for trial in tropical climates.<sup>218</sup> One Mr. Ruspini claimed many medicinal properties for his styptic solution. The Court sent sample bottles of it for experimental use in India.<sup>219</sup> The Secretary of Humane Society in England presented 50 copies of a pamphlet on methods of recovering persons drowned or otherwise suffocated and also some equipment in this connection. The Court promptly passed on the copies and the equipment to Bengal and Madras to serve as a pattern for fabricating similar equipment in India.<sup>220</sup>

This readiness for scientific experimentation, encouragement to orientalists and their works of scholarship whatever the state of the Company's finances and the general spirit of curiosity and enquiry exhibited by the Court of Directors is a relieving feature of these despatches most of which otherwise deal with trade, revenue, profit and corruption.

### *Botanical Gardens*

Lt. Col. Robert Kyd, the founder of the beautiful Botanical Gardens near Calcutta, was one of those persons whose fields of interest are much wider and deeper than the immediate job in hand. In 1786 when he first suggested the idea of such a garden he was Secretary to the Board in the Military Department. But he seemed to be as much interested in nursing tender plants and watching wild flora and fauna as in forming military plans or examining army contracts. On 15th April 1786 he submitted a letter to the Board suggesting that every village should build up a stock of sago plants to be supplied from a nursery at Calcutta which would partly serve the needs of food during famines.<sup>221</sup> It was his letter dated 1st June in that year,<sup>222</sup> however, that formed the genesis of the botanical gardens. In it he described how ten years earlier he had stumbled upon an inferior species of cinnamon near Tisgong in Assam where he had gone for recovery of health. Cuttings of that tree were then planted in the private garden of Warren Hastings who always encouraged introduction of new articles of commerce. Some more specimens were obtained from Bhutan and still other plants of the true cinnamon from Ceylon. All these flourished gloriously in the Governor-General's garden and some even bore fruit in ten years. Kyd also obtained authentic information that in Sylhet an inferior variety of the same tree was found to be growing wild. The commercial possibilities of cinnamon were great and Kyd pointed out what inestimable potential treasures the Company possessed. He therefore suggested "the propriety of establishing a botanical garden not for the purpose of collecting rare plants (altho' they also have their use) as things of mere curiosity or furnishing articles for the gratification of luxury, but for establishing a stock for disseminating such articles as may prove beneficial to the inhabitants as well as the

218. LFC, 22 Dec. 1786, paras 23-4.

219. *Ibid.*, para 18.

220. LFC, 27 Mar. 1787, para 95 and Enclosure (9) to LFC, 31 July 1787.

221. Home Public Original Consultation, 27 April 1786, No. 58.

222. Home Public Original Consultation, 16 June 1786, No. 14.

natives of Great Britain and ultimately may tend to the extension, of the national commerce and riches." This could best be effected by "Government procuring from the different parts of India and establishing a nursery stock from which private individuals may be supplied *gratis* who may think themselves qualified to adventure on a general cultivation of the innumerable articles which our possessions will furnish means of raising with success..." He concluded by estimating that the monthly charges of such a garden would be between Rs. 150 and 200.

In placing this letter before the Board Sir John Macpherson strongly recommended the plan and promised to look out for a suitable spot for the gardens if the Board approved.<sup>223</sup> The Board was 'impressed with conviction of the practicability of bringing the plan to maturity without incurring any considerable expense and decided to take the most effectual measures to that end as soon as a suitable place was selected.' In the proposed gardens it was decided to cultivate cinnamon and pepper, to experiment with improving the indigo plant and to introduce the date and sago trees which might prove of great service in case of failure of crops. Drawings of cinnamon and pepper plants submitted by Kyd were sent to the Court and their approval was solicited.<sup>224</sup>

As Ceylon and its profitable cinnamon trade was in the hands of the Dutch in those days, the Court of Directors heartily approved of a proposal which held out prospects of successful competition. They also welcomed the introduction of the sago as a measure against famine. Considering the objects in view they did not mind if the expenses exceeded Rs. 200 p.m. They ordered that reports of the progress of the project and drawings of its productions be regularly sent to them. Lt. Col. Kyd, the father of the project, stood most deservedly high in their esteem and favour, they declared.<sup>225</sup>

Thus encouraged by the authorities Kyd selected for the gardens a site near Muckwah Thana (an old Muslim fort built as an outpost to protect the trade on the Hooghly river), which also adjoined Kyd's own house at Shalimar, in the neighbourhood of Howrah, on the opposite bank of the river. It was occupied by some huts the owners of which had no better title than possession and they were compensated and removed easily. The gardens were then laid out and Kyd was appointed Honorary Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, a post he held till his death in 1793. The project held out flattering prospects. Application was made to different Presidencies and through them to more distant places for plants and trees suggested by Kyd. The Court too was requested to send seeds and saplings from England.<sup>226</sup>

In a year's time the Gardens had so far progressed as to receive requisitions for 'sundry trees and plants' from Sir George Young

223. Home Public O. C. 16 June 1786 No. 13.

224. LTC, 21 Aug. 1786, paras 50-3.

225. LFC, 31 July 1787, para 39.

226. LTC, 11 Sept. 1786, para 10; LTC, 27 July 1787, paras 114-5.

for the botanical gardens at St. Vincent Island, England. Col. Kyd himself selected and packed them and gave necessary instructions for their preservation to the captain of the ship carrying them.<sup>227</sup> Their dispatch, however, was postponed, as the ship did not possess the facilities required for preserving plants.<sup>228</sup> Kyd, also submitted detailed information on the proper manner of transporting saplings of European trees to Calcutta.<sup>229</sup>

### *A Colonial Administration*

This volume ends with the close of the year 1788, which does not denote any major landmark in the first governor-generalship of Cornwallis. During the period covered by this Correspondence Cornwallis had been able to curb corruption among the servants of the Company, initiate action against the guilty and raise emoluments of the rest to rid them of temptation. In this measure as well as in adopting agency system for investment he went against the directives of the Court of Directors. In the field of the Company's commerce a beginning was made in trade relations with Assam; unprofitable purchase of cloth from Oudh was stopped; salt was sold in small lots; and a code of regulations for weavers was drawn up. It was during this period that Penang was acquired, the corrupt Grant recalled from Benares, and free hand given to Duncan to develop that *zamindari* and to Kyd to lay out the botanical gardens. Lastly a draft bill for giving legal sanction to Calcutta police was submitted. Many of Cornwallis's other measures in the field of judicial, district and revenue administration were still in their early stages. As such, on the basis of the details available in this volume of correspondence only it is not possible to assess his achievements during these years in the varied spheres of administration and public life.

But the basic colonial nature of the administration, however, becomes clear from a careful study of this Correspondence. The years 1787-88 were very bad for Bengal. Heavy rains, consequent floods and a violent storm on 2nd November 1787 ruined the crops and greatly affected the salt manufacture. Many weavers lost their dwellings and even the means of their subsistence. There was a grave famine, in severity second only to that of 1770. This time too mothers sold babies for morsels and men fought with dogs for mouthfuls. Many poor people perished and large numbers flocked to Calcutta to avail of free rice distribution. After 4 months the Government became so alarmed by the immense influx of the hungry and the starved to Calcutta that they issued orders to stop further delivery of free food by the voluntary organization set up by the British inhabitants. Lower Bengal and particularly Dacca were the worst-hit. Therefore, measures had to be taken for the relief of the people. First of all demands for rent were temporarily suspended. Duty on grain was also similarly suspended and later embargo laid on export of food grains. Efforts were also made to draw supplies from Bihar and

227. LTC, 1 Sept. 1787, para 45.

228. LTC, 18 Sept. 1787, para 7.

229. LTC, 15 Dec. 1787 para 149.

Benares which had plentiful crops. But the contract to supply Madras with rice was not terminated till the contractor represented that it was unprofitable to him! Even then Cornwallis took comfort in the fact that reasonable profit on local sale of rice would compensate the contractor for loss in freightage. The Fort William Board 'feared' that temporary suspensions of rent demands would prove 'from absolute necessity confirmed remissions'. The Board and Cornwallis were quite concerned with 'fictitious pleas of distress', and felt it necessary to reassure the Court that 'the Board of Revenue would most scrupulously investigate illfounded claims for deductions and that no exertions would be spared for the purpose'. One discerns here an anxiety to convince the Court that the revenues were not that badly affected, that investment would not be inadequate, that there was a 'pleasing prospect' of better season.<sup>230</sup> This anxiety to minimise the severity of the famine in the eyes of the Court instead of solicitude for people's welfare clearly demonstrates that the underlying principle of any colonial administration, exploitation of the colony for the mother country, the mercantile principle and the profit motive, were the prime movers in the Government machinery and not the welfare of the subject people. Cornwallis overhauled and streamlined it, but geared it to one purpose—greater gain for Great Britain and more profit for the Company. Ramsay Muir hence says, "the reputation for clean and upright government which the Company had now earned made it possible for it to set forth upon the career of conquest".<sup>231</sup>

230. LTC, 15 Dec. 1787, para 129; 10 Jan. 1788, paras 3-4; 12 Jan. 1788, para 57; 12 Feb. 1788, para 37; 3 March 1788, paras 18-9; 5 June 1788, para 9; 3 Nov. 1788, paras 16-7; 6 Nov. 1788, paras 350-2; Hickey, *op. cit.* III, pp. 343-4.

231. *The Making of British India*, p. 193.

## **LETTERS FROM COURT**



## LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1786

*Irregularities in registration of articles of private trade ended—  
instructions regarding indents for different stores from England—  
Company's Indian debts to be settled in England.*

**O**UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal  
Par 1.

Since our Letter of the 22nd Dec. last, the Ship Swallow has arrived with the following Advices from your Presidency; Viz.

General Letter dated 1st August 1785.

Secret Letters dated 25th March, 23rd and 31st July 1785.

Letters in the Secret Department of Inspection dated the 31st July 1785.

Letters in the Foreign Department dated 31st July, 1785.

Revenue Letter dated 1st August 1785.

Letters from the Governor General dated 30th July and 6th August 1785.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated 15th March and 4th August 1785.

Letters from Lieutt. General Sloper dated 29th July and 11th August 1785.

Letters from General Stibbert dated 15th July.

Letters from Mr. Secretary Bruere dated 10th and 11th August 1785.

Letters from Mr. Secretary Hay dated 31st March, 5th and 8th August 1785.

Letters from Mr. Larkins Accountant General dated 12th August 1785.

2. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our Orders and Directions on such parts thereof as may appear to demand our attention.

•Public Department

3. It is with extreme concern that we communicate to you the Melancholy News of the total loss of the Company's Ship Halsewell, between St. Albans and Durestones Head on the Coast of Dorset, on the 6th Ultimo.

4. In consequence of this unhappy Event, We have altered the Consignment of the Ship Foulis from Coast and China, to Coast and Bay.

5. Several of the Commanders and Officers of our Ships having frequently registered Articles of Private Trade, under the denomination of Chests of Sundries without specifying the particular Contents of such Chests, we have determined in order to put an effectual stop to such Irregularities in future, that all Goods the particulars whereof shall not be specified in the Manifests shall be considered unregistered and forfeited accordingly, notwithstanding it may be alleged that they were included in the Chests of Sundries.

6. And as several of our Ships had sailed for India previous to our coming to this Resolution, we direct that you cause the same to be communicated to the Commanders and Officers of the Ships that may be at your Presidency for their observance thereof.

7. The following Persons have obtained our License to proceed to India as Free Mariners, Viz.

Robert Peck  
Charles Wroughton  
Robert Maxwell  
Walter Baird  
James Haig  
William Douglas  
John Tamlin  
George Wilson  
James Morgan  
Charles Ravenscroft  
James Wyard Gooch

8. We have permitted Gabriel Gillett to proceed to Bengal to follow his profession of a Ship-Wright.

9. We are sorry to observe that the Indents for Military, Marine and other Stores received from India, which ought to be framed upon the most mature deliberation are in general drawn out in a very inattentive and inaccurate manner, many Articles being demanded in proportions greatly exceeding what the Occasions of the several Presidencies can possibly require, and other Articles requested without being described in such manner as to enable us to determine on the Sorts proper to be sent.

10. As an exception to this General observation, we have pleasure in remarking that your Military Indents have of late years been drawn out in a very correct manner, and satisfactory reasons having being assigned for the demand of each separate Article your Indents were fully complied with. In consequence of this we conclude that your different Arsenals are fully supplied, and that at present you have no occasion for further Supplies from England as you have not transmitted any Indent for Military Stores for the year 1783 or this season.

11. Your Indents for Marine Stores are not entitled to the same favourable remark, but the Plan of forming your Indents for Stationary from the actual Issues to the different Offices in the course of one Year is very proper.

12 To put this essential Business on a Plan it is absolutely necessary that the quantity of Stores of every kind whatever which may be proper to be kept up at each Presidency should be ascertained and we depend on your giving immediately the necessary orders accordingly so far as respects your Presidency. This Regulation being once established and an Account of the Remains annually transmitted, our Orders would be proportioned to the Deficiencies in the established Compliment of each Article after deducting the quantities transmitted on the Ships of the preceeding Season.

13. We are of Opinion that Board of professional Men at the several Presidencies should report to their Superiors their Opinion on the requisite Establishment of Marine Stores and from the Opinion of others the most intelligent in their respective Lines the several Presidencies should determine on the necessary Proportions of general Stores. The Gentlemen of the Faculty ought also to adopt the same Mode for the Medical Indents and the Orders given in our Letter of the 23rd. December 1783 for sending home the old Instruments to be repaired must be particularly attended to.

14. Governor Campbell has at our Requisition drawn out a Return of Brass Field Pieces which in his Opinion are necessary at the three Presidencies, and by stating the Remains by the last Accounts from India and the particular pieces which he thinks should be removed from one Presidency to another together with a given Number of Howitzers to be sent from England he has shown in what manner the whole will be completed to a certain Establishment. This Statement of Sir Archibald Campbell we much approve, and in Consequence thereof have ordered the required Number of Howitzers to be cast, all of which will be compleated in the Course of next Season. Copy of the proposed Establishment will make a Number in the Packet and we direct that the same be adopted at yours, and the other Presidencies, an Exchange made of the several Pieces proposed in the Statement unless upon more minute Investigation assisted by local Information there should appear to you very material Objections against it. But on a Supposition that Sir Archibald Campbell's Ideas will be approved of one essential part of his plan so far as respects the Establishment of the necessary Quantity of Military Stores will be disposed of.

15. In consequence of the Representation in your General Letter of the 22nd. February 1785 that you had been under the necessity of making large purchases of Stationary. We have this year fully complied with the last annual Indent received from your Presidency except in the Articles of Sealing Wax and Sand. We were surprized to observe an Intimation in the said Representation that the Stationary purchased in India was of a superior quality to that sent by the Company, if the Stationary should in future prove bad, Samples of the Paper complained of must be returned to us, but We trust that this will not happen as all the Paper provided by the Stationers employed by the Company is of the manufacture of the two first Makers in England.

16. We have permitted Messrs Christopher Roberts and William Towers Smith, whom we appointed Writers for your Presidency in the Season of 1782 to proceed to their Duty this Season without Prejudice to their Rank.

17. We have permitted Mr. Robert Garrett to return to Bengal to practice as an Attorney in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

18. Messrs John Shaw and James Campbell who were Assistant Surgeons on your Establishment and came to England with your permission the former as a Surgeon of the Resolution, and the latter as Surgeon of the Latham have our leave to return to Bengal to practice in their profession, and they are to be promoted in our Service according to the Directions given in our Letter dated the 16th March 1784.

19. Mr. John Lamb whom We permitted to return to Bengal to practise as an Assistant Surgeon and to be promoted in our Service in the manner directed in our letter of the 16th March 1784 proceeds on the Ship Hillsborough.

20. Mr. Henry Price has our Permission to return to India and remain there three years to settle his private Affairs.

21. We have also permitted Lieut. Colonel George Campbell late of the Kings American Regiment to proceed to India and remain there two years for settling his private Affairs on the express Condition of his not entering into the service of any of the Country Powers.

22. We have permitted Mr. Francis Renaldi to proceed to Bengal to practise as a Portrait Painter.

23. We transmit you in this Packet Copy of a Letter from George Rose Esqr. Secretary to the Lords of the Treasury addressed to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman dated the 9th December last, acquainting them that their Lordships had ordered a Warrant to be passed for authorizing the drawing and accepting the Bills ordered to be drawn for payment of part of the Company's Indian Debts in England.

24. Altho' We are willing to believe that in carrying into Execution our Orders of the 15th September 1785 for liquidating the Company's Debts in India by Bills of Exchange on us, you will be particularly attentive to the Convenience of the Bond Holders and other Creditors at our several Presidencies who shall acquiesce in the Terms we have proposed for that purpose yet we think proper to observe that it is by no means our Intention that they shall incur any Expence by this Arrangement either on account of Commission Agency or otherwise. On the other Hand it would be extremely unreasonable that the Company should be at any Expence on this Account. In order therefore that no Charge in this business may accrue either to the Company or Individuals, We direct that upon your receiving the accounts from the different Presidencies of the Amount of the several Bonds together with the description of the Parties to whom Bills for the same are to be granted, an Arrangement be framed for conducting this Business in your Accountants Office under your Inspection by means whereof the Bills may be either delivered at your Settlement or forwarded to Europe if required without any allowance or charge being made for the same.

25. The Expence of Overland Packets from India has of late arisen to such an enormous Amount owing to the Number of private Letters

which have been suffered to be transmitted under their cover that We feel it our Duty to issue our positive Directions that you do in future avail yourselves very sparingly of the Indulgence which has been hitherto granted to the Company's Principal Servants in India of forwarding small Letters to their Friends in England in Overland Packets under our Address.

### Military Department

26. We shall send you this Season by Way of Trial 100 Musquets with Bayonets 80 Carbines and 50 pairs of Pistols of a new Construction which have been particularly recommended as they may be fired much oftener than other Pieces within the same Space of Time an Account of the Method of loading and firing them with a further Description of their use will be transmitted by a future Conveyance, and We direct that you report to us how they merit the favourable Representation that has been made of them.

27. Lieut. James Mc. Adam of His Majesty's 98th Regiment having requested us to reimburse him the sum of £.200 being as he states the Expence incurred by him for his Passage to Europe or to grant him the usual allowance made by the Company to His Majesty's Officers returning from India and it appearing that 200 Pagodas the Sum usually allowed in India for Passage Money had been paid to him by a Bill upon your Presidency, We determined not to comply with his Request.

28. Captain Tolme Commander of the Resolution also applied to us for an Allowance for accommodating Lieutenant Mc. Adam with a Passage from Bengal to Bombay and having laid before us your Order to him to receive on board and accommodate Lieutt. Mc. Adam with a Passage to Europe whereby We observe that the Expence of his Passage was to be paid here although the same had been discharged by a Bill upon your Presidency as before mentioned. We cannot avoid noticing the Impropriety of your Conduct in granting the said Order however as it appears that an account of the Resolution being obliged to put in at Bombay to repair Lieutt. Mc. Adam proceeded no further in that Ship and that Captain Tolme had not received any Compensation for Lieutenant Mc. Adam's Passage from Bengal to Bombay We have allowed him the Sum of £.40 on that account.

29. Having taken into Consideration the application of Mrs. Frances Jackson Widow of the late Doctor Rowland Jackson to be admitted to the Benefit of the Military Fund as represented in your General Letter of the 23rd August 1784 and as it does not appear that Doctor Jackson held any Warrant to act as a Physician or Surgeon to our Army in India and as such only are entitled to the Benefit of the said Fund we cannot comply with Mrs. Jackson's Request.

30. In our Letter of the 28th August 1782 We advised you that we had received a third application from the Executors of the will of the late Capt. Henry Spellman of your Cavalry who died in Calcutta in April 1765 in respect to a Sum said to be due to his Estate on Account of Disbursements made by him for Horses Accoutrements & ca

furnished the Troop, and at the same Time We acquainted you that the whole of the Transaction was fully stated in the above mentioned Memorial of the said Executors and the Papers accompanying it Copies whereof were transmitted in the Packet and We referred you thereto for all the Information we could give you relative to this matter and positively directed that you should take the same into your immediate Consideration and that you should cause whatever Sum appeared to be justly due from the Company to the Estate of the said Capt. Henry Spellman to be paid to such Persons at Calcutta as were authorized to receive the same.

31. We have lately received another Memorial from the said Executors Copy whereof is enclosed whereby we observe with great Astonishment and Displeasure the Disregard paid to our former Orders in this Respect and thereofre strictly enjoin you not to lose any Time in the Investigation and Adjustment of the said Claim in the manner before directed and your Proceedings herein must be communicated to us by the first Opportunity.

Commercial Department

32. As our Supra Cargoes will stand in great need of Supplies to enable them to furnish Cargoes for the great number of Ships We have consigned to China this Season, We enjoin you to comply with their Requisition to the utmost of your Power.

We are

Your affectionate Friends,

W. Devaynes/Nath. Smith/John  
Robarts/John Motteux/John Man-  
ship/George Cuming/Thos. Parry/  
Paul Le Mesurier/Hugh Inglis/  
Thos. Fitzhugh/G. Boehm/Jacob  
Bosanquet/Chas. Mills/Lionel  
Darell.

London  
the 24th February 1786.  
[Copy per *Berrington*]

[*Endorsement*]

Received the 10 July Read in Co. Do\* Orders passed 11 July.

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1786

*Earl Cornwallis appointed G. G. of Bengal—trade in pearls, diamonds and other precious stones at Benares.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote you last under date of the 24th February.

\*Read in Council on 11th July vide para 8 of Letter to Court 21st Aug. 1786

## Public Department

2. We have altered the Consignment of the Ship Contractor from Coast and China to China direct.

3. The following Persons have obtained Our Permission to proceed to India under Free Mariners Indentures Viz. Henry Romer, Walter Dawes.

4. We have appointed Charles Earl Cornwallis be Governor General of Bengal.

5. We have great satisfaction in communicating to Mr. Macpherson the following Unanimous Resolution which we came to on the 24th Ultimo.

"That the Thanks of this Court be given to John Macpherson for his Zeal and Activity, during the time he has presided in the Supreme Council at Calcutta."

6. Herewith you will receive Copy of a Memorial which Mr. Joseph Sherburne, a Senior Merchant on your Establishment, has addressed to us, praying that the Injuries he has sustained, may be redressed, and his long Services rewarded, and we direct that he be appointed to such Station as may be suitable to his Abilities and Rank in our Service agreeably to the Spirit of the late Act of Parliament for regulating the Company's Affairs. unless you can assign satisfactory reasons for withholding such Appointment.

7. In reply to the 39th Parh. of your General Letter of the 22 February 1785, We hereby permit of Mr. Devis's remaining at your Presidency under the Company's Protection.

8. At the desire of Mr. Israel Lavin Salomons a very respectable Merchant of this City, we have permitted Mr. Lyon Prager to proceed to Benares and reside there seven years to carry on a Trade in Diamonds and Diamond Boart and other precious Stones and Pearls under and subject to the Conditions and Stipulations contained in an Agreement made between the Company and Messrs Salomons and Prager. Copy whereof is enclosed.

9. We have also permitted Mr. Salomons to name one of our Servants in Bengal to Join Mr. Prager in the said business. The Person so to be named by Mr. Salomons, must execute a like Deed of Covenants with that executed by Mr. Prager here, which you must have prepared and it must also be executed by Mr. Salomons, who will send a Letter of Attorney with Mr. Prager for that purpose.

10. As we conceive it of very great importance to the Company. to restore the said Trade in order to render it an advantageous mode of remittance of Private Property, and to secure a regular and fair payment of the duty due to the Company in respect of such Trade, we direct that for the purpose of accomplishing these objects, you afford

Mr. Salomons and his Agents every protection and Assistance in your Power in carrying on the said Trade to the best advantage, and that you prevent any improper interference therein.

11. It is not our intention to permit any Person, during the continuance of the said term of Seven years, to proceed from hence to India for the purpose of carrying on the Trade allowed, as aforesaid to Mr. Salomons and his Agents, but we do not mean to exclude any of our Servants or other Persons now residing in India, or such as may hereafter proceed to India as Covenanted Servants of the Company, from carrying on the said Trade in Diamonds and Diamond Boart, and other Precious Stones and Pearls, but they are to be at liberty to traffick therein in like manner as if our License to Mr. Salomons and his Agents, had not been granted and we hereby direct that all Persons who now are or may hereafter be licensed to Trade in Diamonds must enter into the like Obligations as Messrs Salomons and Prager have entered into with us in England.

#### Commercial Department

12. In addition to the Ships mentioned in our Letter of the 22nd December last, We have entertained the undermentioned at £. 22 P. Ton Freight to China direct, and at £. 23 P. Ton to Bengal. Such Ships as are under 755 Tons are to carry Kentlage, to be allowed Demorage, Private Trade, and Men & Guns in proportion to the Tonnage of a Ship of 755 Tons, likewise Surplus Tonnage at half Freight, in all other respects they are taken up on the same Terms as the other Ships of this Season, as will appear by reference to their respective Charter parties.—the Consignments of the said Ships are as follow; vizt.

	Tons		
Ravensworth . . . . .	512	Captn. Collingwood Roddam	} Coast & Bay
Lansdown . . . . .	574	William Story . . . . .	
Carnatic . . . . .	758	Lestock Wilson . . . . .	China
Chapman . . . . .	538	John Fox . . . . .	} China
Ranger . . . . .	537	Edmund Elliston . . . . .	
Mars . . . . .	696	Wm. Farrington . . . . .	

13. A Clause is inserted in the Charterparty of the Ship Ravensworth whereby the Owners have agreed in case it should happen that there may not be Cargoes in Bengal for all the Ships Consigned thither this Season, to take the said Ship on their own Account and free the Company from all Expenses 'till the following Season, when a Cargo may be provided for her.

14. And in Case a Cargo for the Lansdown cannot be provided either at your Presidency or at Fort St. George she must be sent to China to be laden for Europe.

15. Having paid to the Representatives of Antonio Bruguier Decd. late one of the Silk Spinners in Bengal, the Amount of Sicca

Rs. 740. which the Board of Trade in their Letter of the 14th December 1784, advised us, had been deposited in the Treasury at Commercolly on account of his Estate, We direct that the said Sum be carried to the Company Credit.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends,

W. Devaynes/Nath. Smith/John  
Robarts/John Manship/Step. Lu-  
shington / Jn. Townson / Lionel  
Darell/Thos. Cheap/Paul Le Me-  
surier/Hugh Inglis/Thos. Parry/  
George Cuming/Samuel Smith  
Jun./John Motteux.

London

the 8th March 1786.

[Copy per Hillsborough]

3

## LETTER DATED 14 MARCH 1786

*Post of Resident at Goa abolished—bad state of Benares Zamin-dari—plans for developing trade with Assam under Government control—financial arrangements for the Orphan Society in Bengal—Maj. James Browne, Warren Hastings's envoy at Delhi, dismissed*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Public Department

Para 1. Previous to the receipt of your letter of the 14th January last, advising the appointment of Mr John Carnac to be Resident on the part of your Government at the Portuguese settlement of Goa, on the resignation of Mr. Charles Crommelin, we had come to the resolution of abolishing that office as will appear by the list which accompanied our letter of the 11th April following and which we hereby confirm.

•

2. We cannot permit this subject to pass without particularly adverting to the conduct of your Board, in the appointment both of Mr. Crommelin and Mr. Carnac.<sup>1</sup> Neither of these are servants of the Company, and yet both have been appointed to the Residency of Goa, in contradiction to our repeated orders, that no Europeans, on any pretence whatever, should be suffered to hold any post, or to exercise any office Civil or Military under the Company, who had not been admitted into the service by the express authority of the Court of Directors. You will further attend the illegality of those appointments.

The Act of Parliament of the 13th of his present Majesty, has very clearly laid down the rule to be observed in the restoration of dismissed servants namely that it shall not be done without the consent of 4th of a Court of Directors and 4th of a Court of Proprietors, to be taken by ballot; but in the instances before us, you have assumed a power which does not belong to you, and by a summary mode of proceeding have restored dismissed servants, and appointed them to a place of great trust and confidence, by a simple resolution of your own Board.

3. We disapprove of the Pension to Mr. Crommelin, and direct that it do cease immediately upon the receipt hereof; and we trust all our Servants abroad will be cautious, of any such unwarranted grants of the Revenues of the Company for otherwise we shall in future find ourselves under the necessity of ordering sums so granted to be reimbursed by those servants who shall concur in making them.

4. It is with concern that we are under the necessity of remarking your inattention to our interests and your neglect in not enforcing the laws made for their protection. What we allude to, is the following advertisement in the Calcutta newspaper of the 4th July 1785 published by Gordon and Hay.

"To Captains Supercargoes & ca of Foreign Ships.

For sale

At the Agency Office, Old Library.

Fine balance Sannah proper for the Europe Market.

Salt Petre of the first quality.

*Captains Supercargoes & ca. of Foreign Vessels assisted in the negotiating of their bills on Europe, and in the purchase of their homeward cargoes.*

Piece Goods of all kinds.

Company's paper discounted as usual at his office to any amount in a few hours."

5. This advertisement evidently calculated to aid and forward the trade of foreigners, is not only contrary to express engagements entered into by every person in the Company's civil service, and every person licensed either as free Merchants or free Mariners, but is also contrary to the 29th and 30th Sections of the Act of the 21st of George the 3rd and punishable at Law: The connivance at which offences, or the overlooking them by our superior servants and not proceeding to stop or punish the parties concerned in such transactions, is highly culpable, and we strictly enjoin you to be more watchful in future and to take every legal measure for bringing to punishment persons concerned in such practices. The suffering an Advertisement of such an illegal tendency to pass unnoticed,

not only argues a relaxation in Government itself; but manifest likewise a degree of censurable neglect of duty in the Company's law officers under your presidency, whose peculiar province we conceive it is to see that transactions which are contrary to the law of the land be not suffered to pass with impunity.

6. Pursuant to our intention communicated to you in our dispatches of the 8th July last, we were preparing an arrangement of the voluminous papers relative to the transactions in Oude. But as the records which accompanied your advices by the Swallow, contain accounts which in a high degree concern the character of several of our Civil and Military servants in the large allowances they have been in the receipt of from the Viziers,<sup>2</sup> we have thought it necessary to refer the whole to the consideration of the Company's law Officers, and shall wait their report before we come to a final decision thereon. In the mean time we approve of the reductions you have ordered to be made in those Allowances.

7. We have perused your several proceedings from the 14th October 1783, the day on which you deemed it expedient to lay an embargo on the exportation of Grain from Bengal by sea to the 22nd of July 1784 the day on which you settled the mode of indemnifying the Company for the payments which you resolved to make to such individual merchants as had prepared Tonnage for conveying large quantities of this article to Fort Saint George, at the time the embargo took place.

8. When we consider that the losses of individuals arose from a measure taken by Government, for the general preservation of the community the mode you adopted for making good those losses, by an additional tax upon such articles as were of most general consumption, was both Judicious and equitable.

9. In our letter of the 10th [9th] December 1784 (Paragraph 42) you were informed of our pleasure to allow of the translation[sic] of Mr. Charles Boddam from Bengal to Bombay in lieu of Mr. Thomas Willkinson and Mr. Willkinson to be placed in the same rank which Mr. Boddam held at Bengal, we were induced to this from a representation that it would be a very acceptable service to Mr. Boddam our Governor of Bombay, but finding by the General letter from Bombay of the 30th July last as well as by letters from that Gentleman to his private friends upon the occasion that he has been made unhappy at this removal of his son which we meant a favor to that Gentleman and as it appears by your letter of the 1st August last that the exchange was made without the knowledge or consent of the young Gentleman himself, We therefore direct that Mr. Charles Boddam originally appointed a Writer on your establishment, do remain in that situation and that Mr. Wilkinson do return to Bombay without injury to the respective ranks assigned them on their first appointment.

10. In reply to the representations from the Assistant Surgeons under your Presidency as recommended to our consideration in your general letter of the 23rd March and 1st August last, we have only to refer you to our letter of the 21st September following, by which

such of them as have been in actual service with the troops, or on detachments during the War, were permitted to draw their pay and  $\frac{1}{2}$  batta while unemployed.

11. It is not in our power to comply with your request in behalf of Mr. Archibald Kier, as mentioned in your General letter of the 27th [22nd] February 1785.

12. After an attentive perusal of all the materials relative to the subject, we approve of the late arrangement which has taken place between the Nabob Vizier and Fyzoola Cawn; whereby the latter in consideration of the sum of 15 lacs is relieved from the danger of any indefinite and unwarrantable demands of Military aid under the 3d. Article of the treaty of 1778 [sic] we feel so warmly the attachment and fidelity of Fyzoola Cawn in very critical periods that it is our positive instruction that you omit no opportunity of providing the sense we have of it.

13. We have perused with the utmost attention the several papers lately received from your Presidency, relative to the state of the province of Benares and shall now proceed to communicate to you such observations as have occurred to us thereon.

14. The distressed situation of the province and it's inhabitants as represented in Mr. Hastings letter to your Board of the 2nd April 1784 afforded us no small degree of concern. We were particularly struck with that part of the letter which represents the people abandoning their Villages at Mr. Hastings's approach, notwithstanding every means were used to prevent it. A circumstance of this nature whether really owing to the conduct of the Europeans or not does certainly carry with it a reflection on the national character, and manifests a great relaxation of discipline among the troops. Whatever be the cause, it certainly behoves you to give such instructions to the commanding officers of Detachments, and to adopt such other measures as will tend to prevent any future circumstance of this nature. Upon the approach to any town or village they should make such an arrangement of their troops as would effectually prevent the followers of the army, to whom the devastations which have happened in Benares seem principally to be attributed from being guilty of similar excesses; and every Commanding Officer must be responsible for the conduct, both of the Detachment and it's followers.

15. The absolute incapacity of the Rajah to Govern, the mismanagement of his Naib, and the declension [sic] of the Province, both in commerce and agriculture, as stated in Mr. Hastings's letters, seem to justify the adoption of some system of controul over the conduct of the future Naib, and the Plan suggested by Mr. Hastings in his letter to the Board of the 13th June 1784, as far as we are able to judge of it, appears well calculated to restore the prosperity of the province, and you must not fail to acquaint us, whether the same has produced the salutary effects intended.

16. With respect to the commercial state of the province as represented in the last mentioned letter from Mr. Hastings, we approve of the revisal and confirmation of the regulations established in 1781 but unless a vigilant and unremitting attention be paid to the execution of the plan both by your Government, and by the resident acting under your authority, the best concerted measures will prove of no avail. This observation cannot be more strongly verified, than in the instance before us. both in respect to the conduct of the Naib of whom no complaint appears to have been made by your resident on the spot, and with respect to the before mentioned regulations which altho' adopted so late as the year 1781, so little attended to by the executive officers of Government, that in 1784 they had become, as Mr. Hastings informed you, almost obsolete. It will be therefore the duty of the resident to make you acquainted from time to time how far these regulations are enforced and observed. He must likewise keep you informed of the state of the province in other respects, that in case of a nonobservance of the regulations established, or the appearance of any defect in the system, a suitable remedy may be applied. The appointment of a person to reside at Mirzapore, the common mart of the province, for the purpose of receiving the complaints of the merchants, and to report them to the resident, appears to be a very judicious measure, and well calculated to ensure an observance of the late regulations. We direct that the person so appointed do furnish the resident for your information and ours, with a correct and regular account of the imports and exports, that an accurate judgement may be formed from time to time of the real state of the province.

17. We observe it stated in the letter from Mr. Hastings of the 21st October, that under the Management of the late Naib the revenues had very much decreased. The resident was directed to examine this man's accounts but we have not been able to learn from your proceedings the result of this examination.

18. We likewise think it necessary you should make particular enquiry for your information whether the country has been subjected to any additional imposts above its ability on account of the Rajah's tribute to the Company being in 1781, encreased from Benares Sicca Rupees 23,40,209 to 40 lacs, and in general we rely on your zeal and abilities to promote to the utmost the future prosperity of this Zemindarry.

19. Having thought proper, in compliance with the recommendation of the Madras Government, to write a letter to the Rajah of Tanjor, on the subject of his arrears of subsidy,<sup>4</sup> we enclose a copy thereof for your information.

#### Military Department

20. A misconstruction having been put upon the orders contained in the 11th Paragraph of our General letter to your presidency of the 14th April 1779, We think it necessary to declare, that they extended no further than is implied by the words of the Paragraph itself.

Thus if any officer or officers of any description (not absolutely become supernumerary in consequence of the newly adopted Military establishment) shall be gone to Europe, the same shall be considered, pro-tempore, as an actual vacancy or vacancies and filled up accordingly in so far as respects pay and batta only, by the next in standing, until the return of the officers who were the occasion of such temporary vacancies. According to this explanation, the oldest Captain would receive the pay and emoluments of a Major, in the absence of an officer of that rank &ca. &ca.

21. Upon an examination of your proceedings, and under all the circumstances of the case, as set forth in your general letter of the 10th December 1784 We acquiesce in the appointment which took place on the 7th June 1784 of Messrs Douglas, Campbell and Ramsey to be Cadets on your establishment. But at the same time we must repeat and confirm our former directions on this subject, which must be given out in general orders, that in future the commanding officers of Detachments may not plead ignorance thereof.

22. Having considered the application of Lieutenant Stewart, the contractor for making Powder to be indemnified the expence of repairing the damages caused by explosions the Powder Mills from 20th August 1777 to 20th August 1779, we approve of your determination, for the reasons stated on your proceedings in the Inspection department to allow Mr. Stewart for all explosions which happened previous to the 1st June 1778 only.

#### Commercial Department

23. In our separate letter of the 21st September last, paragraph 68 we suggested an idea, from the information we had received, that a very beneficial Trade in the article of Salt, might be prosecuted within the Kingdom of Assam, for which returns might be made in Gold Dust, and other articles we have since had leisure to consider the subject more at large, and shall now proceed to make such observations, as have occurred to us, upon an attentive perusal of such parts of your records, as afford us any light thereon.

24. When the advantages which might be expected to result from a trade to the country of Assam, were first suggested to us by Mr. Baillie,<sup>5</sup> in 1773 a copy of whose letter upon the subject accompanied our dispatch to your presidency of the 7th January 1774, we were led to expect, from his experience of an 8 years residence at Gual-purah, that broad cloth, and other European commodities might be disposed of to the natives of Assam, who were represented as carrying on a considerable traffick with the colder countries situated to the North East. The returns were to be made in Mugga silk, black pepper, and specie.

25. Notwithstanding these expected advantages from a commercial intercourse with Assam, we find from the representation of Mr. Kellican to your Board in 1780 that this commerce which was formerly extremely beneficial to Bengal was then in a great measure ruined by the mode in which it was conducted, and for want of due

regulation in carrying it on. Mr. Kellican concluded his representation with a proposal that he should be allowed the exclusive privilege of the Trade to Assam for four years, on his paying to the Company the sum of fifty thousand Arcot Rupees per annum.

26. Mr. Kellican's representation was acquiesced in, and his proposal immediately accepted.

27. Upon this new mode of carrying on the trade to Assam by an exclusive privilege granted to an individual being communicated to us, we did not hesitate to order the agreement with Mr. Kellican to be annulled, as such a monopoly appeared to us repugnant to the general principles of commerce; and this sentiment strikes us the more forcibly, when upon a reference to your records, we observe, that Mr. Kellican's farm was to be supported by a Military force, stationed under the Companys resident, who was at the same time his Agent.

28. Mr. Kellican alleges, upon the surrender of his exclusive Grant, that after an experiment of two years, he has sustained a loss of Rupees 40,000 for the first year, and at the end of the second, he had a large quantity of Salt remaining unsold, besides an outstanding balance to the amount of near a lack of Rupees. But upon inspecting Mr. Kellican's statement of his first years account, it appears—

1st	That the amount of interest is vague; and not credited per Contra.
2nd	His gratuity of 10,800 Rupees to Mr. Lear, is not a just outgoing from the profit of the trade.
3rd	His buildings charged at 51,456 Rupees ought not to be stated as an article of decided loss.
4th	Purchased near one half of his Salt at the Gualparah price and could not expect the same advantage as if he had bought it originally at the Company's sales.
5th	He allows nothing for 2,629 Mds. remaining on hand which was worth 10,000 Rupees.

29. So that we consider that statement as by no means a just account of his profit and loss on his exclusive privilege of trade.

30. We now come to speak of the proposition offered to you by Mr. Lodge<sup>e</sup> and referred to our decision, for taking the whole trade with Assam into the hands of Government, under the management of a Resident upon the spot and appointing him to that station for a period of 5 years, upon an assurance, that after deducting the cost of the Salt; Freight, Commission, wastage, allowance for risk &ca

together with the amount of charges of the residents establishment, Adaulut and seapoys, the company will receive a clear profit of 4,00,000 Rupees per annum.

31. As you have not given us your opinion upon this subject, which we expect upon every reference for our decision; we shall examine, as well as our records and information will enable us, the expediency and propriety of the plan suggested.

32. The establishment proposed by Mr. Lodge is as follows :

Salary 1,500 Rupees per Month ..	18,000
House Rent 300 per Ditto .. ..	3,600
Charges collection, adaulut and Servants (not particularized.) .. ..	12,000
Militia not to be a detachment from the army but raised & paid by himself .. .. .	7,500
Commission to the Resident .. ..	80,729
	<hr/>
	1,21,829
And Allowance for bills on Calcutta ..	2,923
	<hr/>
Rups. ..	1,24,752

33. Upon this article, we think that the expence would be unreasonable and the idea of Mr. Lodge's being appointed for the five years inadmissible.

34. With respect to the leading point in Mr. Lodge's proposal, namely, the assuming into the Company's hands, the exclusive privilege of the trade with Assam, it is directly contrary to the general principle of free trade by which we conceive the prosperity of the provinces under our Government may best be promoted. We are sensible that such a principle may admit of exceptions, under the circumstances of particular cases, which may be stated. But in the present instance, it is by no means proved to our satisfaction that such circumstances do exist. The argument contained in the resolution of your board of the 13th June 1780 which assigns as a reason for complying with Mr. Kellican's request, that this trade has for many years been a monopoly in the hands of a few unauthorized adventurers, appears to us a contradiction in terms. No reason is assigned either in Mr. Kellican's or Mr. Lodge's Memorial, why this trade may not be carried on with advantages by individuals, except the smallness of the profit, and the necessity of a Military force to secure their property. The first is contradicted by the allegations of Mr. Baillie in his Memorial laid before us on the 28th January 1777 and by the representations of Gunganarain and Mr. Lear<sup>7</sup> and the latter would have been obviated if the protection of Government were given to those who engaged in the Assam trade,

35. The benefit held out to the Company, by the two proposals was chiefly the revenue to be derived in one case from the rent to be paid by the farmer of the Monopoly, and in the other case from the profit in the quantity of Salt which Mr. Lodge supposes likely to be sold. The first we consider as by no means a sufficient reason for the adoption of a measure so repugnant to our general policy and accordingly we annulled Mr. Kellican's grant.

36. The specific advantage held out to Government, by this the second plan, is the annual disposal of two hundred and fifty thousand Maunds of Salt for which it is stated that there would otherwise be no open market. But the truth of both these assertions is deficient. The sale of this quantity is no otherwise secured than by Mr. Lodges opinion. We understand that when the trade was only partially open, both the British and Native Merchants as well as the French and Dutch have at all times pursued, even with a degree of eagerness, the traffick to the country of Assam. But Mr. Kellican's account of the first year of his exclusive trade, states, that his sales in the article of salt, did not amount to more than eighty five thousand maunds, nor does Mr. Lodge assign any reasons to show the probability of an encrease.

37. Still less does it appear on what grounds it is assumed, that a larger proportion might be sold under this plan, than by the exertions of individuals who must equally purchase it from the Company. On this subject however we feel less able to decide, as local circumstances of which we are ignorant, may exist in the trade in the article which has proved so beneficial to the Company under the present management.

38. The extension of the sale of Salt is unquestionably an important object for Bengal, and more especially now that the Salt trade is in the hands of Government and is become so great a source of our Revenue. But we think it also a point of great importance that proper measures should be taken to promote amongst the people of the Northeast boundary, a demand for the other products of Bengal, or of the Woollens or other Manufactures of Great Britain, which in the year 1773, we were taught to believe might be very considerable.

39. Upon this general view of the subject we are of opinion that one of your covenanted Servants should be nominated to proceed to Assam. And as Mr. Baillie was the author of the original propositions for opening a trade with the Assamers, as he has had the experience of 18 years residence in that Country, and as he has represented, that he suffered great losses by being recalled from thence in consequence of our orders for annulling the exclusive grant of that trade to Mr. Killican; on all these accounts we think Mr. Baillie the fittest person to be appointed on this Service, and therefore direct that he be appointed accordingly. Mr. Baillie takes his passage on the [.....]

40. Mr. Ballie should be directed to investigate the true causes which have hitherto been in the way of a beneficial commerce with Assam, to aim at obtaining a general knowledge of the extent, Government and products of the Assam country, and it's probable

communication with China. He should try whether it be practicable to form any beneficial treaty with the Rajah, or any agreement with the native Merchants, and for this purpose he should reside either at Gualparah, or proceed to Goahatty or any other part of Assam as the occasion may require. But we would be understood to mean a treaty purely of commercial nature, formed upon mercantile principles without any appearance of power or Assumption of superiority that might give offence or alarm to the Assamers.

41. By forming the purgunnahs of Rungamally Bisnu Baharbund, Carrybarry, Beterbund or any other Districts near the Assam Frontier into a small Collectorship to be placed under his direction, we think you might give efficacy to his Office, as well as put him in a situation to conciliate the inhabitants of those Mountainous countries, hitherto not much explored, and eventually without any injustice, be the means of encreasing our revenue.

42. We observe that upon a former occasion, when the Assam trade was a monopoly in the hands of an individual, Mr. Baillie was invested with the management of certain Districts, we therefore direct that a similar measure be adopted in the present instance. But should you hereafter see occasion to alter your opinion in this respect, you must report to us your reasons for such alteration in opinion for our final determination.

43. We doubt whether much benefit would arise from instituting a Court of Adawlut at Gualparah, as the natives of those parts are probably not accustomed to the regularity of judicial processes, and modes of greater simplicity may be better adapted to their manner. However we leave this point to your discretion, and as to the rest of his Establishment, it must be on the most Oeconomical scale of those allotted to similar officers, according to the general regulations of our service.

44. The other objects of his duty should be to give the most liberal and full protection to Merchants of every description and to cultivate an intercourse with the Assamers, upon principles of good faith, and honor, worthy of the British Character and he should keep an exact register of all his transactions.

45. If the trade were fairly laid open, it does not appear to us, even although British Subjects are restrained by law from trading in Salt, that they would be wanting persons to transport that article to the Gualparah Market. But as it appears to have been at all time a monopoly in a greater or less degree, and arguments are suggested to us from a similar practice in the Rajah of Assam [sic], to prevent a fall in the established selling price at Gualparah which might result from any competition, we direct you to adopt for the present, the plan proposed for the sale of this article only by retaining it solely in the hands of Government.

46. At the same time, we recall to your notice the declaration made in the 61st Paragraph of our General letter of 21st September last already quoted, that "it is not our wish in general to Assume to ourselves any articles of the internal trade of our provinces which can be conducted by private merchants paying a suitable duty to

Government" and we steadily adhere to the sentiments already conveyed to you on treating this subject upon a former occasion in the 18th Paragraph of our general letter dated 12th July 1782. Therefore whatever restrictions it might be necessary to impose upon the trade of Salt, we would have the trade in every other article completely free and open. Any attempt in the Resident to Monopolize it for himself and others, must be severely punished.

47. We direct that you furnish us with every information which will enable us to judge of the probable extent to which this trade may be carried as well in the article of Salt, as in the several other articles of commerce above mentioned with your full opinion thereon, that knowing the issue of this experiment and having every possible information before us, we may ultimately be able to regulate our future instructions on this head.

48. We further direct that you keep as constantly advised of the progressive success of this business, of the expense attending it, and if the net-profits resulting therefrom to the Company, and likewise of the advantages arising from it, to the provinces under our Government.

49. We understand that Muggadoties, which form part of the returns from Assam, have been usually sent to the Choromandel and Malabar Coasts by private Merchants, and as it is our wish to prevent as much as possible the sending of specie from your provinces or the drawing of Bills on you, we recommend to you to consign to Madras & Bombay such quantities of Muggadoties as they may inform you they can dispose of.

50. Upon considering the advantage to be derived from opening a commercial intercourse between the province of Bengal and the country of Assam, we were naturally led to take a view of your proceedings relative to the attempts which have been made towards a similar intercourse with the dominions of Boutan and Thibet.

51. It has long been the wish of the Company that a trade might be opened with those distant parts of India. We have perused the reports of Messrs Logan, Bogle and Turner, who were at various times deputed to Thibet, which afford much useful information upon the subject, and from whence we entertain the most sanguine hopes that a very beneficial commerce with the Thibetians, both in European and Indian commodities is far from being impracticable. But without entering at this time into a minute discussion of the matter, we shall for the present content ourselves with signifying to you our approbation of the plan adopted by you, as advised in your letter 5th July 1784 towards the accomplishment of so desirable a purpose, and shall wait the issue of that experiment before we give you our further directions on the subject.

52. In the meantime the utmost attention must be paid by you for attaining the ends proposed herein, since every endeavour to open new Channels for supplying the Bengal province with a return of specie must be considered as highly judicious and praiseworthy. But we must however observe that our views in forming connections with any new states or powers are merely commercial.

53. For our further satisfaction, we direct that you furnish us with samples of the Carmentia [carmine ?] Wool the produce of Thibet, and such other productions of the country as you shall think may be useful in the composition of an European investment.

Supplemental  
Public Department

54. We have come to the following resolutions relative to the Orphan Society<sup>s</sup> established at your Presidency Viz.

1st. That this Court doth approve of the institution of an Orphan Society in Bengal for the maintenance and Education of the Orphans of Officers, Surgeons, and Surgeon's Assistants on the Bengal Establishment.

2nd. That this Court doth approve of the General principles of the institution, as more particularly set forth in the proposals of the said plan, excepting the 21st, 22nd 23rd 24th, and 25th Articles, which relate to sending the Orphans for education to England and recommending such as shall be considered fit for the Military service to be appointed Cadets; but in respect to the sending of Children for Education to England, this exception is not meant to exclude those already in England, who ought to be provided for out of the fund agreeable to the 17th article of the said Plan.

3rd. That in case upon further consideration, it shall be seen proper that any children should be sent to England for Education this Court is of opinion that the same should be confined to legitimate Children, where both the Parents are Europeans.

4th. That this Court doth approve of the Military Pay Masters' deducting and stopping out of the pay of the several Officers now in the Company's Service and specified in the first article of the plan, and also such other Officers as have agreed or shall agree thereto. such sums as they have or shall think fit to allow to this fund, and that in future no person entering into the Military service as officers of like rank Surgeons and Surgeons Assistants on the Bengal Establishment, be admitted to those offices unless they shall previously agree to make such Monthly allowances as the Managers of the Society shall from time to time agree to.

5th. That this Court doth approve that the Managers of the Orphan Society have the charge of the maintenance and education of the Children and Orphans of European non commissioned Officers and privates on the Bengal establishment.

6th. That it is not proper for this Court to take a general controul and direction of the affairs of the Orphan Society in England, but will have no objection to receive quarterly returns and accounts from the Manager or Agent in England and to interpose as occasion shall require in giving assistance to the Managers in Bengal to correct abuses and to promote the Welfare of the Society.

7th. That the remittances be granted from time to time by bills of exchange on the Court of Directors of such sums as the society may

want in Europe upon the same terms as certificates are granted to the Captains and Officers of Ships in the Company's service.

8th. That as the Managers of the Orphan Society in Bengal have made repeated representations to the Governor General and Council setting forth that the Monthly Allowance of 3 Sicca Rupees, stipulated to be paid to the Managers by the Company for the maintenance, Cloathing and Education of each of the European soldier's Children, is greatly inadequate to the unavoidable expences incurred by the society on those accounts. This Court will therefore give orders that the Managers of the Society be directed to deliver into the Bengal Board an account annually, specifying the actual expences incurred by the society on account of those children; and that the excess of the said amount above the allowance of 3 Rupees be reimbursed to the society by the Company; provided that the total Monthly charge for each Child do not exceed the allowance of 5 Sicca Rupees formerly issued for the support of those Children. And to prevent abuses in the charity it is the opinion of the Court that no allowance either of 3 Rupees or any further sum to be paid without returns being regularly made to the Governor General and Council of the Children entitled to this fund specifying the name and Age of such children, and their father, together with their stations and the Regiment and Company to which they respectively belonged, which lists are annually to be transmitted to the Court of Directors.

9th. That this Court doth approve of the Advance made by the Governor General and Council of the sum of 40,000 Sicca Rupees for the construction of a Building for the reception of 300 Children of Non Commissioned officers and Soldiers, and that the Orphan Society be discharged from the Bond given by them to the Governor General and Council for the repayment of the same in case this, Court should disapprove thereof.

10th. That in the present state of the Rohilla Donation Money, the Court cannot take upon themselves to form a judgement what may be done respecting any unclaimed share of that Money, but will be hereafter ready to concur in an appropriation of unclaimed shares to the respective Orphan Military Funds, whenever it shall Appear that it may be done with propriety.

55. Having taken into Consideration your proceedings in consequence of our orders dated the 11th April 1781 relative to the donation of the late Vizier Shuja ul Dowla to that part of the Army in Bengal which was employed in the late Rohilla expedition,<sup>9</sup> we observe that on the 24th February 1784 you resolved that the sum of Lucknow Sicca Rupees 10,50,000 which is included in the estimate of claims upon his Excellency the Vizier to the end of the Fussulee year 1191 for the Army donation should be charged in the account current of the next Month to the Nabob's Debit as before, and that such a proportion of the sums monthly received on account of the assignment taken for the amount of those claims as its amount bears to the whole of that estimate should be monthly carried to the credit of the claimants for the said donation. We approve of this arrangement and as it appears by your account, quick stock dated 30th April last that

nearly the whole of this sum had been received into the treasury. We direct that you pay the same to the several claimants or their legal representatives according to the statement of the distribution thereof which is entered on your consultation of the 1st June 1778 and not otherwise.

56. With regard to the unclaimed shares of this Money you will observe by the 10th Resolution respecting the Orphan Society that we have expressed a readiness to concur in an appropriation of such unclaimed shares to the respective Orphan Military funds, whenever it shall appear that it may be done with propriety, we therefore direct that you inform us of the amount thereof together with the opinions on resolutions of the claimants in general and of the Managers of this Society relative thereto.

57. We send you 20 copies of a Memoir concerning the Chagos and adjacent Islands<sup>10</sup> which we desire you to communicate to such persons as you may think can give any further elucidation on that subject.

58. We have permitted Mr. Robert Orme Smith to return to our Civil service at your presidency without prejudice to his rank.

#### Secret Department

59. Having taken into consideration the conduct of Major Brown<sup>11</sup> in forwarding the demand of the King, supported by Madajee Scindia, for the payment of the arrears of tribute. after he had received his letter of recall, and in not communicating his knowledge of that demand to Lieutenant Anderson, we have thought proper to dismiss Major Brown from the Company's Service, and he is hereby dismissed accordingly.

60. We approve of your conduct in facilitating the execution of every part of the late treaty of peace, by restoring to the Dutch the possession of Sadras, Pulicat &c with a reservation of such rights as might be derived to Great Britain, in case on any further dismissal on the subject, the dependencies of Negapatam should be judged to extend further than is allowed by the interpretation given to the treaty by the Dutch Commissaries.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends,

W. Devaynes/Nath. Smith/John Man-  
ship/John Roberts/Lionel Darell/J. W.  
Woodhouse/Tho. Cheap/George Cum-  
ing/John Motteux/Thos. Parry/Step.  
Lushington/John Townson/Paul Le  
Mesurier/Jas. Moffat/Samuel Smith  
Jr/Chas. Mills/Jno. Michie.

London

the 14th March 1786.

[Copy per Wm Pitt]

## LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1786

*Mooring of ships at Diamond Harbour instead of Hijili—Capt. Mc-Clary's violent conduct—ban on presents to Company's servants—re-trenchments and reduction of the establishment expenses approved—management of Farrukhabad—criticism of army contracts—observations on imports from England—orders for various kinds of cloth and other goods to be sent to England—measures to check smuggling of diamonds—other instructions regarding exports from India—more investment in cloth from Oudh urged—regulations for investment and contracts—commission to members of Commercial Board—Act of Parliament enlarging powers of the G.G. and Governors—Lt. General Robert Sloper to resign on Lord Cornwallis's appointment as C-in-C.*

OUR Governor General and Council At Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our Last Letter to you was dated the 14th Ultimo, and transmitted by the Ship William Pitt.

2. By the Intelligence Packet, which arrived at Falmouth on the 24th Ultimo, we received the following Advices from your Presidency vizt.

General letters dated 24th August, and 25th October 1785.

Secret Letters dated 19th August, 25th October and 1st November 1785.

Letters in the Secret Department of Inspection dated 25th September, 25th October and 1st November 1785.

Letter in the Foreign Department dated 25th October, 1785.

Revenue letter dated 15th October, 1785.

Letters from the Governor General dated 22nd October, and 2nd November, 1785.

Letter from the Board of Trade dated 14th September, 1785.

Letters from Lieutenant General Sloper dated 13th, 30th and 31st October, 1785.

3. We have also received by the Ship Glatton a letter from Lieutenant General Sloper dated at Fort St. George the 11th June 1785.

4. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts of the said Advices as may appear to demand our attention.

*Public Department*

5. For the reasons stated in the letter from Messrs Keble and Price entered on your Consultations of the 11th July last, we approve of your having adopted the plan proposed by the Master Attendant, of mooring the Europe Ships in Diamond Creek, instead as formerly at Kedgeree.

6. We direct that our Board of Trade do notify to you the time when any Ship is laden, and ready to be dispatched by them for Europe, and in case you shall be under the necessity of detaining any Ship beyond that period you must not fail to communicate to us your reasons for such detention.

7. For the reasons mentioned in your Proceedings of the 8th September 1784, and referred to in your General letter of the 10th December following, we approve of the reward given to Captain Montgomery and the Officers of the Besborough for their Services during the Siege of Pondicherry.<sup>1</sup> But you are on no account to grant similar rewards in future. The nature and extent of the Services which may hereafter be rendered by the Commanders and Officers of any of our Freighted Ships must be stated to us, and the acknowledgement for such Services, left to the decision of the Court of Directors.

8. We have taken into our consideration your letter of the 5th April 1783, and the papers to which it refers, relative to the incompetency of the present Admiralty jurisdiction at your Presidency<sup>2</sup> and are pursuing the necessary measures for remedying in future the defects of the present Commission.

9 In perusing these papers we were naturally struck with the utmost astonishment at the violent and illegal conduct of Captain Mc. Clary, the Commander of a Country Ship named the Dodalay. For however severely he may have been treated by the Portuguese Government at Macao in the very heavy fine which they imposed upon him and the imprisonment of his Person for two Months, in consequence of his having stopped a Sloop that was going from thence to Manilla, suspecting she was Spanish Property, and subjecting her to the examination of that Government, before he ventured to avail himself of his Capture yet we know of no excuse that can be made for his outrageous behaviour in the Seizure of two Portuguese Ships in the Streights of Malacca, in order to indemnify himself for his sufferings at Macao. Instead of avenging himself he ought to have submitted the matter to your consideration who would naturally have made application to the Portuguese, had they appeared to you to have acted improperly towards a British subject.

10. His seizure of the Ship at Whampo, under Dutch Colors was another instance of the violence of his disposition, and a direct infringement of the neutrality of the Port, besides that it involved our Supra Cargoes in disputes with the Chinese Government which had nearly been productive of the most disagreeable consequences. But Captain Mc. Clary seems to have been totally regardless of every consequence either to the Company or the Nation, that might follow from the rashness of his Proceedings. For notwithstanding he must have been sensible of the embarrassment which he had occasioned to our Supra Cargoes by his seizure of the Vessel at Whampo, yet he afterwards had the audacity to Capture a Chinese junk in the Streights of Banca.

11. These Instances of atrocious Conduct in Captain Mc. Clary render him a very improper person to remain any longer under the Company's protection. Indeed we do not find that he ever received

the Company's license for remaining in India. And as he is precisely within the description contained in the 11th Paragraph of our General Letter the 15th January 1783, having taken his Passage on board one of the Company's Ships as a Purser, we direct that he be immediately seized and sent to England.

12. Lest others should be inclined to follow the example of Mc. Clary in his utter contempt of the Laws of Nations, we direct that you take the most effectual measures to make known our Sentiments on Mc. Clary's Conduct, to the Commanders of Country Ships, and that you particularly caution them, as they value our protection, against any Act which may give offence to the Chineze Government and thus involve our Supra Cargoes in difficulties, and expose our affairs to manifest inconveniences.

13. In consequence of the violent and illegal conduct of Capt. Mc. Clary we deemed it necessary to take the opinion of Council on several points relative thereto, a Copy whereof is enclosed, by which you will observe that the power to seize and send to England given to the Company may be exercised by the Servants of the Company in China, as well as in their other Settlements. This legal power of Control in the Supra Cargoes over the Conduct of the Country Commanders must likewise be made known to the latter. Indeed so various have been the Complaints of the Supra Cargoes of the irregularities committed in China by the Captains of trading Vessels, and the consequences thereof so serious and alarming, that we have made such regulations as will we hope, put an effectual stop to similar irregularities in future. A copy of those Regulations is enclosed, and we direct that you carry them into immediate execution.

14. In the course of our examination into the voluminous Proceedings relative to this business, we were struck with Amazement at an observation made by the Supra Cargoes in their letter to your Board of the 26th November 1782, that they had not received any answer from you to any of their letters for 4 years. When we consider the great and increased importance of the China Trade, and that a variety of circumstances may arise in which our Supra Cargoes may stand in need of your opinion, and advice, we cannot too earnestly recommend it to you to be constant and regular in your correspondence with them, taking the earliest opportunity of replying to their several letters.

15. Having thought fit to appoint Messrs William Henry Pigou, Apraham Roebuck, Henry Browne, John Harrison, George Cuming, and Alexander Bruce, to be a Select Committee of Supra Cargoes with full powers to transact the Company's business in China, we direct that you address the said Committee whenever our Affairs shall render it necessary for you to correspond with our Servants at Canton.

16. Messrs Francis Robertson, Robert Forbes, and Alexander Cockburn have obtained our permission to proceed to India, under Free Mariners Indentures.

17. We have permitted Mr. Charles Martyn to proceed to Bengal to practice as a Barrister in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

18. Mr. Thomas Charter a Musician, has our leave to proceed to Bengal to follow his profession.

19. We approve of the several orders and regulations established for the Civil Department as advised in your inspection letter of the 31st July last, Paragraph 68, in as far as they are consistent with the orders you may have received from us since the date of your before-mentioned Advices.

20. We have attended to the regulation formed for the Audit of all Public Accounts, in consequence of the abolition of the Committee of Accounts, as advised in the 46th Paragraph of your letter in the Inspection Department dated 31st July last. But should those Regulations be found not to have answered to purposes intended, We hereby empower you to appoint a Committee consisting of 3 of our Covenanted Servants best qualified for such an undertaking, and with reasonable allowances if they are in no other place of emolument to the discharge of this trust, and likewise to examine into the Amount of the Fees and Emoluments of all such Persons as are employed in the Public Office and the Duties to be performed therein—and to report thereon to your Board.

21. However well disposed we may be to alleviate the hardship of an Individual suffering on account of the Company's Bonds being at a great discount, yet, for obvious reasons, we must decline a compliance with the request of Mr. Droz, late Commercial Chief at Cossimbuzar, as communicated to us in your General letter of the 23d. of March last.

22. In our letter of the 16th April 1777, we enclosed you a copy of a Resolution of the General Court of Proprietors, restricting the Governors and Councils of the respective Presidencies from making any Presents to Servants in India without the Orders of the Court of Directors. We were therefore extremely surprised at your allowing Mr. Holland a Gratuity of 10,000 Rupees for the Services performed by him during his residence at the Court of the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn. However well disposed we may be to acknowledge and to reward the merits of Mr. Holland yet from that respect which is due to the Resolution of our Constituents, we are obliged to disapprove your Conduct upon the present occasion, and to repeat our orders for an implicit obedience to that Resolution in future.

23. We approve of your Conduct as mentioned in the 22nd Paragraph of your Secret letter of the 25th March 1785 respecting the receipt of Nazirs and as the Act of the 24th of His Present Majesty has prohibited the receipt of all Presents whatsoever, the injunction must on no account be dispensed\*with.

24. In reply to the 42nd. Paragraph of your General Letter of the 1st August last, transmitting a Memorial from Mr. James Grant of your Civil Establishment, you are hereby informed that Mr. Grant's request to be restored to his Original Rank cannot be complied with, as Mr. Grant's Present Rank was adjusted after mature consideration, and previous to his departure from Europe, we are very much surprised and displeased at his present application, and also at your recommendation that we should comply therewith.

25. We have attentively considered all your Proceedings as well as those of the late Select Committee at Fort St. George, relative to the claims of Captain Hearsay late Grain Keeper to the Grand Army in the Carnatic, and refer you to what we have written to Fort St. George on the subject for our decision thereon.

26. In reply to the 88th and the 3 following Paragraphs of your letter in the Secret Department of the 31st July last, we adhere to the orders transmitted in our two former dispatches of the 2nd February 1781 and the 28th January 1784, and in consequence thereof direct, that Sir John Day shall be entitled to no more than £3,000 Salary allowed to him at the time of his original appointment, and what he has received above that sum since the receipt of our letter of the 2nd February 1781, must be refunded. If Sir John Day has any peculiar circumstances of hardship to state, in addition to those already stated these ought to have been stated, and may still be stated for our consideration, but we cannot permit our Servants abroad to alter specific Establishments fixt at Home, without making a reference to us for our opinion upon the justice of those representations, and as little can be permitted our repeated Order to be evaded by such expedients as have been adopted in the case of Sir John Day. He induces your Government, contrary to our orders, upon a Solemn pledge of refunding, to continue the payment of an unwarranted allowance as an indulgence to him, and then upon that indulgence he grounds a complaint of hardship, if he shall be obliged to refund agreeable to the pledge which was the Condition of the indulgence. The whole of this transaction lays the foundation of a precedent which we think it our duty peremptorily to reprobate.

27. Having reconsidered our Resolution as communicated to you in our letter of the 10th September 1783, respecting the return from abroad of our Civil and Military Servants for the recovery of their health, or for the purpose of settling their Private Affairs, we have agreed to dispence therewith so far as may respect the temporary return to Europe of any Person in consequence of any reduction made or to be made, in the several branches of our Civil and Military Establishments, And as it has been represented to us that it would be in general, if not wholly impracticable to obtain the attestation of 3 Surgeons to the case of a single Individual, We shall content ourselves with the testimony of only one Medical Gentleman, as to the fact of his Patient being really in an ill state of Health. And you are to make it as generally known as possible, that upon a discovery of any Collusion herein, the parties concerned in such collusion will be most assuredly dismissed from the Company's Service. But we must at the same time observe to you that the too great facility with which the dissipated and the indolent obtained leave of absence from India was the only motive which induced us to establish the mode contained in our before mentioned Letter of September 1783.

28. Having fixed the Civil Establishment for Fort Marlbro' and its dependencies, we refer you to the accompanying Copy of our letter to that Presidency dated the 12th April 1786 for our determination thereon.

29. In the 39th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 8th of July last we expressed our apprehensions of your having inserted on

the Quick Stock of the 31st October 1784, balances expected to be received of the Land Revenues of which some part we conceived would afford but little prospect of liquidation—And we are concerned to find by the account of Quick Stock last received from your Presidency which is dated the 31st of July 1785, that those apprehensions were too well grounded as it appears that the Sums you have inserted thereon, for the Balances expected to be realized of the years 1781/2—1782/3 and 1783/4 amount only to Sicca Rupees 85,000—which Balances on the Quick Stock immediately preceding dated the 30th of April 1785 were stated at Sicca Rupees 16,56,196.

30. As your advices last received do not state any reason for striking off so large a sum on the 31st July, which you had thought proper to bring to the Credit of the Company three Months only before that date, it can only be supposed that on a reconsideration of those Balances, the small part thereof inserted at the above period was the whole that afforded any prospect of realization.

31. This strongly evinces the necessity of the injunction contained in our letter before quoted, namely, that care be taken, that no dubious articles are inserted in the Statements of Quick Stock—we are sorry to observe that proper attention has not been paid to this, in the Article herementioned, and that so considerable a Sum should have been brought to our Credit without a proper examination into the probability of its being liquidated.

32. We must therefore repeat in the most positive manner our injunctions on this point, and direct that your Quick Stock Accounts be framed with the greatest attention and accuracy.

33. In the General revisal of Establishments we have lately had occasion to make, it is impossible not to express our concern at the large allowances still enjoyed by the Officers belonging to the Supreme Court of Judicature, and we trust, that subject will be thought worthy of a serious consideration at home.

34. With respect to the allowances of the Law Officers appointed by the Company, we are always at liberty to vary them as circumstances may require, we therefore direct that the Salary and allowances to the Advocate General do on no account exceed 30,000 Current Rupees Per Annum, and that in lieu of the present Salaries to the Senior and Junior Council they be given a retaining fee of Rupees 200 Per Annum each; these Salaries must therefore cease immediately upon receipt hereof.

35. We find you have omitted to send home the particular accounts of the Customs collected at the several Government Custom Houses for some years back, those of 1777, being the latest received, we direct therefore that you supply them regularly from that date, pursuing the form before practised for the Registers of imports at Moorshedabad, distinguishing the Names of the Merchants, sorts of the Merchandise, whence imported, valuation, amount of Duty &ca &ca and the same for goods exported, to which you should add an Abstract at the end of the year, Showing the Total Imports or Exports of each sort of Goods or Merchandize with

the Duties Collected thereon, and the other particular heads as now directed.

36. By the intelligence Snow, we received your letter from the Secret Department of Inspection of 25th October 1785, with the papers referred to therein advising us of your having carried into immediate execution the orders for retrenching in the several Establishments of your Presidency, contained in our Separate Letter of the 11th of April last.

37. We embrace the earliest opportunity of expressing the high sense we entertain of your Conduct on this occasion, which has, as it merits, our most hearty Commendation, it is highly satisfactory, to us also to find that our Orders have been received by our Servants in general in that proper and submissive manner, which we consider as extremely meritorious in them, and we shall not let slip occasions of testifying our favourable notice of their behaviour in this instance.

38. The progress made in the essential work of reform previous to the receipt of our orders of which we were apprized in part, by the advices received by the Swallow is an additional claim to our approbation—the principle and extent of your reductions appear to have been laudable and judicious and in many points anticipated our directions—with great satisfaction therefore we acknowledge the attention shewn to our Interests on this subject.

39. We are perfectly convinced of the difficulties you must have experienced at the outset of your retrenchments, the accounts necessary to be prepared and laid before you for your guidance in this work must have occupied much time and labor. We commend the diligence and ability of those Servants who were employed by you in collecting those Statements Copies of which were received with your dispatches by the Swallow.

40. The leading principle of retrenchment adopted by you of leaving to each necessarily existing office a fair allowance for the labor attending it entirely coincides with our Ideas on the Subjects nor on a review of our Orders do we find reason to think we have deviated therefrom, and we trust the Allowances we have affixed to Offices of labour and consequence will sufficiently prove this.

41. We are sorry to observe that the Commercial Board have been backward in shewing an inclination to keep pace with the supreme Council in the reform proceeded upon before the arrival of our Orders, the small reduction in House Rent being the only Article of retrenchment then made, and we must express our surprise at their having for a moment had it in contemplation to increase the allowances to the Servants under them, at a time when you were engaged in reducing the Establishments in general under your immediate Control. We applaud very much the language you held to them on the subject, as expressed in your letter of the 25th September, as well as your positive direction to them of the 28th for carrying our orders into immediate execution, which we doubt not has been properly attended to.

42. We have in the first part of this letter acknowledged we were sensible of the difficulties attending the outset of your reform, and have approved of the principle you adopted for your guidance. We are convinced that by this means industry will be encouraged, and merit rewarded and to this end all our orders have been pointed, you observe "that the situation to which we have by our orders reduced many of our Servants is a Situation of mere subsistence, and with some it cannot afford so much, that Gentlemen in high and laborious Employments, ought not, you conceive to be thrown into any situation which must make it necessary for them to look for profits out of their regular line of Service."

43. It was not our intention to reduce the Emoluments of our servants to or under a mere subsistence. We must insist on the contrary that the Offices of the highest trust have been properly considered by us in the distribution of the Salaries, whereby those in high and laborious Employments, will not, we conceive, be thrown into any Situation which will make it necessary for them to look for profit out of their regular line of Service by which we suppose you mean to explain the term of improper profits used in the first part of your letter,—what improper Profits our Servants may seek we cannot possibly foresee, but sense of their own honor and our Interests we trust will restrain them from recurring to any unjustifiable means of Profit which may militate against either.

44. In reply to your remark relative to official Perquisites, we shall content ourselves with referring to the list of Servants you have lately transmitted us, by which it appear that the Fees of some Offices are far from being inconsiderable.

45. You proceed on the 72nd Paragraph "to observe" that the "Allowances to our Servants are reduced to the standard of 1776, but the Advantages of a Residence in this Country are not nor can they be the same as at that period: Expences of living have gradually encreased and they can be lessened only in the course of time, that Commerce is at such an Ebb that Gentlemen permitted to engage in it, cannot engage in it with advantage."

46. If our Servants have by a habit of expence rendered the Allowances they enjoyed in 1776 inadequate to their support, it is time that this evil was reformed, nor is it just that we should suffer on this account as we certainly have done, by such lavish additions, as have been made to their Emoluments of late years, and the present Crisis appears fully to justify the remedy we have applied. Commerce we doubt not will again revive on the restoration of the general tranquility, and will again bring those advantages to persons engaged therein which they reaped formerly.

47. We trust therefore that with Minds liberally framed and honorably disposed, our servants who have admitted there were great abuses in the Expenditures and Allowances to those in our Employ, will be convinced of the necessity imposed on us, and the propriety of our measures for effecting the work of reform. We shall abide by our resolution of considering their respective Merits as openings in the Service arise, and shall willingly attend to any

recommendation, whether general or particular you may make on the subject.

48. We have before stated the commendable light, in which we viewed the willing obedience to our Orders shewed by our Servants in general. We are concerned to be under the necessity of exempting from this general commendation your Military Pay Master General Mr. Claud Alexander whose letter of the 1st October betrays tokens of discontent, and of disrespect to our Commands, his remarks on Offices abolished, which never existed, and other inaccuracies &c &c we consider in the latter sense our observations on those offices are a sufficient refutation of the assertion.

49. With respect to the field being laid open again for contingent Bills of the Paymasters, we trust the Regulations you have adopted will be a sufficient check to prevent any abuses therein, and as to the reduction of his own Allowances, we need only remark that having taken the Standard of 1776 in general for our Guidance. We have but in a few instances deviated therefrom, and one of those in the very Office held by Mr. Alexander to which in 1776, and to the time of his appointment, the allowances annexed, amounted only to Sont. Rupees Five Thousand Six Hundred and twenty (5,620) but in consideration of his abilities, and assiduity in Office, we were induced to fix at Sont Rupees Eight Thousand (8,000).

50. The great increase of the allowances to this Office Vizt. from Sont. Rupees Five Thousand Six Hundred and twenty (5,620) to Sont. Rupees forty Thousand (40,000) per Annum is we conceive an instance strongly in favor of the necessity of the reductions we have ordered.

51. To mark in the strongest manner therefore our displeasure at the general stile of Mr. Alexander's letter and the disrespect therein shewn to our orders and to prevent the ill consequences to be apprehended therefrom, in spreading discontent among the rest of our Servants we have determined that he shall be dismissed the Company's Service and he is hereby dismissed accordingly.

52. The appointment of Committees to examine into the Balances outstanding on the Military Paymaster's Books, as also on those of the General Department, as advised in your letter of the 25th September from the Secret Department of Inspection, is a measure that we highly approve and we wish the investigation to be extended to every Balance due to the Company in all the Departments, what Allowances you judge necessary to annex to the appointments you will regulate with the strictest oeconomy, and we direct that you furnish us with copies of the Committees report as soon as possible.

53. We shall conclude the subject by repeating our sense of your Conduct in the progress, Principle and Extent of such Part of the reform as you had effected before receipt of our Orders, and when you forwarded us complete Establishments and a complete digest of Regulations for your Civil and Military Departments, we shall consider them with that attention and regard that from the local infor-

mation they contain they may be entitled to, we are perfectly sensible of the arduous and unpleasant Task you have had in executing the whole Plan of reform the directions for which from the great reduction in the income of many of our deserving Servants which became absolutely necessary in a general arrangement were with reluctance entered upon by us, and we willingly acknowledge your Title to our approbation of your Labors therein.

### *Secret Department*

54. We have perused your various Proceedings respecting Mr. Lewis Da Costa from the time of his seizure on suspicion of treasonable practices, in the beginning of the year 1781, to the 11th November 1784, when you agreed to receive him at the request of the Vice Roy of Goa, as Agent for the Portuguese Nation and very much doubt the propriety of your having so done.

55. But as you have taken that step an attempt now to remonstrate with the Portuguese Vice Roy on this Appointment, might lead to unpleasant altercations, we can therefore only direct that you keep a Watchful Eye over the behaviour of Mr. Da Costa, and regulate your future conduct with regard to him by the result of that observation.

56. We have attentively perused your Proceedings relative to the Nabob of Furruckabad<sup>s</sup>, since the receipt of our letter of the 14th February 1783 and have great reason to be satisfied with the plan you have adopted for the relief of that distressed and oppressed Country, as contained in your Secret Consultations of the 28th June last, and in consequence of the representation in your letter in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 25th October following we acquiesce in the continuance of a Resident at Furruckabad until the intended arrangements shall be fully accomplished.

57. But the Powers given to Mr. Willes are so large, and such as we should by no means feel ourselves at liberty to authorize you to grant unless with a view to relieve the Nabob Mozuffer Jung from the oppression to which he has been exposed, and would still be exposed under the Viziers Sezawals, and unless they were consented to and desired by the Nabob himself. We therefore direct you to write to him immediately upon receipt of this letter and acquaint him of the intention and reservation with which we approve the Plan you have proposed and desire him to make application to you, if he should have any reason to complain of the manner in which this power is exercised either to his own prejudice, or to that of his Subjects, and of his country.

58. You should also acquaint him as you have already done to the Vizier (which we much approve) that he is to give no Present, rewards or Emoluments of any kind whatsoever to any of our Servants except they are entered at large in the Books of his Treasury, and transmitted to us for our approbation.

59. We are persuaded from the Character you give us of Mr. Willes that he fully deserves the recommendation you have made

of him but at the same time he must be particularly enjoined to keep you constantly informed of the state of that Government and Country, particularly with respect to its Revenue, and the Administration of the Courts of Adawlut over which your instructions give him so large a controul. He must also transmit to you from time to time an exact account of the Revenue received and expences incurred in every branch of the Government, either upon account of the Company or the Nabob, together with the expences attending his own Residency, and the various contingent Articles of the whole at length in detail.

60. We desire that the Allowances to be given to Mr. Willes should be in lieu of all other Emoluments whatsoever, nor is he to think himself at liberty to derive any profit by the exchange of the different Rupees in which he may pay receive or account for any of the Money which passes through his hands, and we conclude that you will have settled his allowance upon the footing of our Orders of the last year from which the situation of our Affairs will not permit us to depart.

61. Your 7th instruction gives him a power which must be made use of with the greatest caution, and in cases only of the most urgent necessity and for the mere purpose of collecting the Revenue, but with a due regard to those rights of the Zemindars which we are at all times bound to respect, but particularly so under the late Act of Parliament we do not therefore mean to justify, any Military operations except in the Cases specially pointed out by that Act, but which we conceive cannot possibly arise out of any measures Mr. Willes will be at liberty to take.

62. You must also be regularly informed of all the instructions he shall receive from the Vizier or his Minister, and of the effect and operation they may have upon the Nabob and his Country.

63. In a word in proportion as the power with which he is entrusted is extensive, so shall we look to him for full responsibility in the exercise of it, which we trust will give him frequent occasion to shew himself worthy of the great confidence we hereby repose in him.

64. We have taken into consideration an application made to us by Captain Donald Campbell, late of the Fort St. George Establishment to be reimbursed the travelling Charges and expences incurred by him in the Companys Service from January 1783 to May 1784 amounting to Rupees Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty (33,320).

65. Although we were very desirous of adjusting Captain Campbell's account we found it impossible to determine on the propriety of his Claims upon the Company as the records in our possession afford no light on the subject, we have therefore determined to refer the same to be investigated and liquidated by you; but we cannot avoid remarking that the several Charges appear high, and the whole very vague a copy of Captain Campbell's Account makes a number in the Packet.

*Military Department*

66. Having in our Letter of the 11th April 1781, expressed a General disapprobation of the contract concluded in September 1779, for supplying the Army with Bullocks &c. as well on account of the length of the term it was to subsist, as on account of the high price to be paid, we should have been well pleased at its being annulled, were not the terms upon which the Contract has been relinquished nearly as improvident and almost as much to be complained of, as the Contract itself.

67. The Contract was to subsist for 5 Years from the 1st September 1779. On perusing the agreement we observe that it was optional in Company to extend the term another Year. It was accordingly stipulated that unless notice should be given to the Contractor, at the end of 4 years, of the Company's intentions herein, the Contract was to continue to the end of the 6th Year, or to the 1st September 1785—One of our principal objections to the Contract was on account of the term of its existence, being for 5 years; we accordingly directed that one year at least, before the expiration of this term, you should advertize for proposals for a new Contract upon the lowest terms, and that no Contracts for Bullocks should be on any account concluded for a longer period than 3 years; But notwithstanding these positive injunctions you not only neglected to advertize at the end of 4 years but omitted to give the Contractor the notice above specified, by which omission the Contract became legally extended to 6 years, thereby furnishing a pretext for your purchasing a relinquishment of the Contract at the expiration of 5 years at the expence of Ct. Rs. 3,09,327. The Compensation to the Contractor for his surrender of the Contract at the expiration of the Month of February 1784, is stated at 69,900 making together the enormous Sum of Current Rupees 3,79,327—The particulars as entered in the Extract of Proceedings of the Board of Inspection, respecting the Bullock Contract, are as follows—

1.	Difference betwixt the price of Rum and Arrack as already allowed by the Board's resolution of the 23rd August 1781		Ct. Rs. 45,410
2nd.	4074 Bullocks at 40 Sicca Rupees each is Sicca Rupees	1,62,960	1,89,033
3rd.	142 Camels at 250 Sa. Rs. each	35,500	41,180
4th.	18 Breaking in Carriages at 800 Sa. Rupees	14,400	16,704
5th.	Estimated value of the Buildings	15,000	17,400
6th.	Compensation for surrender of the Contract at the expiration of the present month— Sa. Rupees	60,000	69,600
Total Sa. Rs.		2,87,860	C. Rs. 3,79,327

68. Upon a slight and superficial view of the preceding account it appears as though the Company had received a valuable consideration for the whole sum which it was thus agreed to allow the Contractor; but upon a more accurate examination of the subject, and of

the materials on your subsequent proceedings, the reverse is evidently manifested.

69. By a Clause in the Contract the Bullocks furnished by the Contractor, were to be of a certain height and strength, above the Age of 4 years, and under the Age of 6, and to be continued to the Age of 12, and no longer. It must be remarked that there is no stipulation in the Contract for obliging the Company to take the Stock in hand at it's expiration, and it might therefore be reasonably supposed that as the Contract was drawing near it's termination, the Stock of Cattle would not be the best. But without ordering any Muster to be made of the Bullocks, which would have been a very natural proceeding, or any examination as to their fitness and ability for Service, and of their Standard Size and Age, you agree at once for 4074 Bullocks at 30 Sa. Rupees each (with an additional 10 Rupees a head on account of a former discharge of Cattle) amounting to Cr. Rs. 1,89,033.

70. As no examination was ordered previous to a final Settlement with the Contractor so we do not find upon your Proceedings, any report as to the state of the Cattle which you had thus indiscriminately purchased, until about 9 months after the business was concluded; when the Agent whom you had appointed for the future management of this Department observed to you that having had no authority to dispose of the *lean old diseased* and galled Cattle, and to supply their places with *fresh, young stock*, it could not be expected their general appearance should be improved, or indeed so good as formerly, especially as the present Stock of Cattle consisted mostly of such as have been at work 5 or 6 years *a very small number of them being less than ten or twelve years old.* There need no further evidence of your improvident Conduct upon this occasion, than is here given by the Agent: Nor is this the whole extent of that Evidence. He supposes that 25 Rupees each will be sufficient to provide fresh and young Bullocks to replace such as were unfit for Service, and which you had purchased at 30 Rupees, and Rs. 200 each for Camels for which you had paid 250.

71. Having thus expressed our disapprobation of your inattention to our Orders, whereby the Contractor was suffered to have a legal claim upon the Company for a continuance of his Contract to the end of 6 Years, and of the improvident Bargain you made with him for procuring a relinquishment of the Contract, particularly as to agreeing indiscriminately to receive his Stock of Cattle at an Extravagant rate, without any examination as to their fitness for Service, We shall proceed to notice another breach of our Orders in two instances, first in not advertizing for proposals, and secondly in resolving to manage this business in future by Agency.

72. Our letter of the 23rd March 1770 positively directed you to advertize for, and receive such proposals as might be offered for supplying the Troops with Provisions, and for furnishing draught and Carriage Bullocks; and in all cases those proposals which appeared the most reasonable in point of charge were to be accepted. Our Letter of the 12th July 1782 contained a general disapprobation of Agencies, and of the 15 per cent Commission allowed on the

Agents Disbursements and directed all such appointments to be annulled, adhering to and repeating our former Orders, that such parts of the Company's business as could be done by Contract should be so executed. But in the instance before us these injunctions were totally disregarded. We observe, that you agreed to allow the Agent 16 Rupees per Month each for feeding the 142 Camels, which you purchased from the Contractor, and for all other Charges attending them—Of the profit which would have arisen to the Agent from this allowance we are not able to judge. We observe however, that by the Minute of our late Governor General, Mr. Hastings, submitting this measure to your approbation, it was proposed that the Camels be reduced so soon as it could conveniently be done, upon which it is natural for us to remark that if so great a number of Camels were deemed at the time the purchase was made no longer necessary for the use of the Army, upon a Peace Establishment, it was a waste of the Public Money to purchase of the Contractor One hundred and forty two at 250 Rupees each amounting in the whole to 41,180 Current Rupees. And that this number was not necessary appears by a subsequent letter from your provincial Commander in Chief, dated 15th February last, wherein he states that 90 would be sufficient; but as the Elephants of which he likewise proposed a reduction, were furnished by a Contract of which there were then two years unexpired, he recommended that the Camels employed under the Agent should all be discharged, and the surplus Elephants distributed in their room, which was accordingly agreed to.

73. But we are not able to ascertain the whole expence of this Agency, or the extent of the profits to the Agent for we find by your Consultations of the 31st January 1785, the Agent requested an allowance of 200 Rupees for the Annual repairs of each breaking in Carriage, and 300 for the rent and repairs of Godowns and Sheds.

74. Although in the measures taken by our Governor General and Council, on the subject of the Agency given to Mr. Auriol as well as that which was afterwards committed to Mr. Charles Blunt, we find much reason for disapprobation, we do not mean to imply any censure upon Sir Charles Blunt, whose conduct seems to be free from any imputation of neglect or unfairness. And if his representation to you on the 16th July 1785, is founded in truth, as we see no reason to doubt, we do not consider the Allowances made to him for the Commission and expences of his Agency, as unreasonable.

75. We observe that Mr. Wheler in his Minute of the 3rd March 1784, declares his opinion, that, the experiment of advertising for sealed proposals, in persuance of our former Orders on the subject of victualling and Bullock Contracts "has already been tried with much inconvenience to the Company, and loss to the party contracting". However we must confess, the truth of the position has not been satisfactorily demonstrated to us. That Particular Contracts might fail we do not doubt, the Contract might be injudiciously formed, or various circumstances might contribute to it's failure, which were never properly investigated—But in a general view of the subject, we have not seen sufficient cause to depart from the

principle which has always actuated our Instructions upon this head, that in a Contract properly guarded, and formed with responsible persons, upon notice publicly given a considerable time beforehand, the Government is less liable to be deceived or ill served than it is by the mode of Agency, where influence is more likely to prevail, where every erroneous calculation turns to the public detriment, and at all events the expense is indefinite.

76. The early attention you gave to this important Article after the restoration of General Peace, is highly satisfactory to us, and we approve the reduction you ordered, on the 13th April 1785, In consequence of the opinion you have obtained from our provincial Commander in Chief. We further rely upon you that when you have received an explicit answer to the reference made to him, as mentioned in the 81 Paragraph of your Inspection Letter of 31st July 1785, and have collected every possible information upon this subject, you will adopt such a Plan for the future victualling of the Army, and for the provision of Elephants and Bullocks, as may be agreeable to our former and present Orders and best calculated to promote the good of the Service, and at the same time consistent with that oeconomy so necessary to be observed in every branch of the Public expenditure.

77. We cannot conclude these animadversions without adverting likewise to your letters in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 25th March and 31st July last, giving you due praise for the progress you have made in the general reduction of expences, and referring you to our former Orders of the 11th April and 21st September last, on this very important subject.

78. For the reasons stated on your Proceedings we acquiesce in the advanced Rank given to Major Erskine, with the reservation however of any increase of pay and allowances until he shall be entitled to such advanced Rank by regular succession. But at the same time we must repeat and confirm our former Orders on this subject, and direct that they be on no account dispensed with in future. Any recommendation in favor of Officers who may have distinguished themselves either by their zeal or abilities will meet with due consideration.

79. On perusing your General Consultations we were very much surprized to find that on the 17th January 1785, you agreed to promote 31 Ensigns to the Rank of Lieutenants, and 101 Cadets to the rank of Ensigns, in the infantry, 26 Cadets of Artillery to be Lieutenant Fire-workers, and 6 Cadets to be Ensigns in the Corps of Engineers. The only ground for the former promotion was your resolution of the 1st September 1783 that no Officer be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, who has not been at least 2 years in that of Ensign: But we must observe that you were by no means warranted under the before mentioned resolution to make this promotion of Lieutenant since the resolution was intended merely to prevent the rise of Ensigns to be Lieutenants before they had served a reasonable time in their former rank, and was not at all designed to establish a rule that every Ensign of 2 Years standing should be promoted to a Lieutenancy.—We therefore very much disapprove the

step you have taken herein, whereby the Company are put to a great additional expence, and hereby direct that no promotions do take place in any rank in future, but in the regular line of the fixed Establishment.

80. In reply to the 56[57] Paragraph of your General letter of the 1st August 1785, referring us to a letter from a Number of Lieutenants appointed Cadets in 1772, requesting to be promoted to the rank of Captains, we have only to observe that such Appointments out of the usual line of promotion would be extremely irregular, and therefore cannot be complied with.

81. We are highly pleased at the testimony from the inhabitants of Benares in approbation of the Conduct of Captain Hogan as mentioned in your Secret letter of the 31st July, and approved of your conduct in issuing your Public thanks to him upon that occasion. Such testimonies of the good behaviour of our Servants toward the Natives of India will ever be regarded with satisfaction by the Court of Directors.

82. We approve of your resolution in favor of Lieutenants Luca-don and Hunter and Ensign Purefoy as mentioned in the 58th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 1st of August last upon similar motives of humanity we acquiesce in the allowances given to such part of the King's Troops as suffered so materially by the unfortunate loss of the Hinchinbrooke.

83. Having considered your Proceedings, recorded in the Military Department on the 22nd December 1784, respecting Mr. Thomas Broughton whom we appointed a Practitioner Engineer for your Presidency on the 22nd January 1783, and it appearing that he has been deprived of his proper rank on account of his Commission having been omitted to be signed by our Secretary notwithstanding the Company's Seal was affixed thereto, we direct that he take rank in the Corps of Engineers immediately above Ensign Thomas Auburey, whom we appointed a Practitioner Engineer for your Presidency on the 23rd September 1783. Mr. Broughton took passage on the Ship Earl Cornwallis.

84. We have considered your Proceedings in the Military Department of the 24th August 1785 respecting the list of Cadets which accompanied our letter dated the 9th December 1784, and have only to observe that in adjusting the rank of the Cadets whose names are inserted in the said Lists you are to be governed by the Seasons wherein they were appointed, and not by the subsequent dates of the lists and to consider the list dated in 1781 as conveying the appointments of the Season 1780, that dated in 1782 the appointments in the Season 1781, and the list dated 1783 and 1784 the Names of the Cadets appointed in the Season 1782.

85. With respect to Mr. Thos. Phillips we find upon examination his allegations to be well founded that he was first appointed a Cadet for Bombay in the Season 1779 and in 1781 removed to your Presidency, from this circumstance his Name was accidentally omitted in the list of 1781, we now direct that he take rank next under

Patrick Kelly, which places him the youngest Cadet of the Season 1781.

86. In the 94th Paragraph of our General letter of the 3rd March 1775, we directed that every Officer whose admission into the Service, as Cadet or Officer, had not been by the authority of the Court of Directors, should take rank below the Youngest of our Cadets of the year in which he received his appointment. In your letter of the 12th September 1776 you observed that if no limitations were fixed to this regulation the rank of all the Officers in the Army would be thrown into utter confusion, and many persons high in the Service deprived of places which they have held for an uninterrupted course of years to be removed to an inferior degree of Rank; and on referring to your Consultations of the 17th June preceding, we observe that you resolved not to extend the operation of this regulation to a remoter period than the 2nd October 1769. But by your beforementioned letter of the 12th September 1776 you informed us that when the Consequent arrangement was laid before you the severe and unprecedented hardships which it appeared that the Officers appointed in the Country would suffer from a supercession some of 55 of 56, others of more than 100 in rank, if it were carried into force whilst those appointed in Europe would only be gainers of 8 or 10 at the utmost, induced you to suspend the execution thereof, and to recommend it to us to reconsider the subject—In consequence of this recommendation we gave you a latitude, in our letter of the 30th January 1778 to come to some final decision upon the matter; but as you have not availed yourselves of that latitude, but on the contrary have again referred it home, we direct that no future alteration do take place in the list of the Army either in consequence of our orders of the 3rd. March 1775, or your subsequent regulations in June 1776. You are to comply however in future with our repeated injunctions, that no more appointments of Cadets do take place in India; such appointments must rest exclusively with the Court of Directors.

87. We have permitted Captain Robert Dennis to return to our Military Establishment at your Presidency without prejudice to his rank.

#### *Revenue Department*

88. We approve for the present of the allowances given to the person appointed to receive the Collections from the Pilgrims resorting to Gya as advised in the 8 Paragraph of your Revenue letter of the 1st of August last we desire however to be informed of the amount thus Collected in order to guide us in our future directions herein.

#### *Commercial Department*

89. The Season of peace being favourable to the pursuits of Commerce, We mean in the most earnest manner to embrace the present moment of Public tranquility in endeavoring to revive, restore, and as far as we may be warranted with any reasonable prospect of

advantage, extend that line of the Company's concerns which has been but too sensibly affected by the disastrous events of the late War—our attention to these objects is also in a more particular manner called upon as in the judicious and prudent management of our commercial Concerns, we have much reliance as well for future success as for relief under our present difficulties.

90. In our Separate General Letter of the 21st September last to our Governor General and Council among other arrangements we deemed it necessary to adopt for the future management of our Affairs at your Presidency. We gave full directions for the establishment of a Commercial Board, and also pointed out the mode in which a Commercial correspondence was hereafter to be conducted. As we have no doubt that upon the receipt of those Advices the necessary measures were immediately taken for carrying our Orders into effect. We now in conformity thereto proceed to transmit you such directions and instructions as may be necessary for the information and guidance of our said Commercial Board, and as we mean to continue the like practice from time to time as occasion shall offer, we entertain the most sanguine hopes that from the result of our attention to this branch of our Concerns accompanied with the strictest obedience on the part of our servants abroad, We may hereafter in the receipt of well chosen Investments reap those advantages which we have too long had the mortification to see flow in foreign Channels..

91. It is at all times painful to us to censure the conduct of our Servants, yet when we reflect that we have seen, not only foreign but even our own Servants whom we have indulged in the liberty of Trade derive the most considerable emoluments from the exercise of such privilege, while at the same time our own Trade under all the advantages we possess, has with the exception of a very few Articles been a losing one, we cannot but be of opinion there is too much reason to conclude that either from the want of a sufficient degree of attention, or a deficiency of judgement in those to whom this branch of our concerns has been committed, the Company's Interests have been in a great measure sacrificed to private emolument as we shall have occasion in the course of our ensuing observations, and remarks to point out under the Articles to which they more particularly relate, several of the Circumstances which lead us to draw this conclusion, we mean not to enlarge further on the subject in this place but proceed by informing you that our remarks will be comprized principally under the general head of

Goods Exported  
Goods Imported  
General Observations

And we would have the same form observed by you in your addresses to us.

92. In the letter to our Governor General and Council under date 22nd December last, they were informed that our exports to your Presidency this Season would principally consist of

	338 Bales Broad Cloth
Woollens.—	{ 50 Do Long Ells
	{ 40 Do Do Broad
	{ 2 Boxes Tabbinets
	Lead 50 Tons
	Iron 50 Do
	Copper 350 Do.

Madeira Wine 250 Pipes, to which will be added sundry Articles of less note as will appear by the Invoices of the respective Ships on which they are laden.

#### Woollens

93. On the subject of Woollens we have to remark that we have received no Indent from you since that dated 28th February 1784, nor any account of remains from your Presidency for some years past. We direct that such Indent and Account remains made up to the latest period possible be regularly transmitted to us every year by the first Ship of the Season, in which case we shall receive them in proper time to regulate our purchases for the ensuing Season which are generally concluded in the Month of July or August.

94. The two Boxes of Tabbinets abovementioned you will receive per Phoenix. As this is a new kind of Manufacture that has never been sent by the Company you must be very attentive in the disposal of them as well as in acquainting us of what they sell for, with the quantity and assortment most likely to suit your Market, and how far consistent with the Interest of the Company this Article may be extended.

95. In the Packet per Ganges are transmitted a Set of Medley Patterns which you will likewise receive in duplicate per Phoenix in order that you may determine what colours are most likely to be disposed of.

96. You will likewise receive in the Packet per Phoenix Patterns of several Colours marked A and P as they are procured from different manufactures those which are preferred must be particularly specified.

97. As we are desirous of exercising our Commercial privileges on principles which as well as the immediate benefit of the Company shall embrace for their object the general advantage of the kingdom at large and particularly the manufacturing part thereof, we have likewise transmitted you on the Lansdown, duplicates of which you will also receive on the Ravensworth Pattern Cards of several Articles manufactured in the Towns of Manchester, Halifax, and Norwich. A full discription of which and their prices are transmitted numbers in the Packet. We particularly recommend them to your notice and attention, and direct that you transmit as your opinion, whether the whole or any particular species of those Goods would be likely to prove advantageous in Bengal or its dependencies without interfering with or proving injurious to the interest of the native Manufacturers whom we conceive ourselves likewise bound to pro-

tect to the utmost of our power, and if so that you acquaint us with the Prices you conceive they would produce, and the Quantities that might probably be sufficient for an annual supply, on which heads we direct that you be as explicit as possible.

98. Duplicate sets of all the abovementioned Patterns marked and numbered in the same manner as those sent you; remain at home, so that a reference to the Cards and numbers only will give a sufficient description of any particular species of goods you may have occasion to point out to our notice.

99. We lament the little attention that has been paid by you to the Article of Madeira Wine, and we are satisfied that it would otherwise have proved a lucrative branch of our Commerce. The very great leakage thereon after its landing is a matter of astonishment to us, and we desire you will give us an explanation of it; we observe that in the year

1773/4 the leakage on 185 Pipes was Pipes 23.

1775/6——on 178 Pipes 26 Gallons 22 Pipes 26 Gallons.

1776/7——on 188 Pipes———32 Pipes.

1777/8——on 130 Pipes 15 Gallons 20 Pipes 15 Gallons.

& in 1780/81——on 89 Pipes 30 Gallons 11 Pipes 30 Gallons. which on the whole amounts to above 14 per Cent.

100. Another Circumstance we have to remark is that you annually write off to the Debit of profit and Loss, the supposed value of the Wine leaked out, which when the Wine account is balanced shows a fictitious profit on this Article; you will henceforward avoid this deception by writing off the Quantity of Leakage without fixing any Value to it; we shall then see what the profit really is.

101. We also direct that in reducing the sterling cost of the Wines invoiced into Rupees you henceforward calculate the Current Rupee at the value of 2 s. in lieu of 2 s. 6d. as the valuing the Current Rupee at 2 s. 6 d. creates at times the appearance of an imaginary profit instead of a real loss; and in order to avoid the unaccountable leakage on the Wines after landing we direct that you sell them always within 30 days of their being landed—a strict observance on your part to this direction, and calculating their Cost at 2 s. the Rupee will on examining the Accounts of this Article at your Presidency enable us to judge better of the Quantity to be supplied you hereafter; you are also directed to be very attentive to the Quality and report to us fully your remarks on this branch of Commerce.

102. We are the more desirous of increasing our Consignments of Wine as we are informed that the Portugueze and other European Nations derive great benefit by what they send to India.

103. We have also heard of irregular practices in this Branch on the part of our Officers who have taken in large Quantities at the Cape where ships have been sent from Madeira to meet them, if any

such practices should come to your knowledge, it is your duty to report them to us, and it is essentially our Interest to prevent rival Powers from carrying on a lucrative export Trade from Europe to India, where with the produce of such profitable consignments they can be the better enabled to enter into a competition with us for their returning Cargoes.

104. On the subject of export we have further to add our directions that you frame and transmit us annually a list specifying the particular Quantities of the different Articles of Europe goods, received by you each Season stating under every Article the various dispositions or uses that have been made thereof and (if any) the remains; that to such of the Articles as shall be sold, you affix the Prime Cost, the sale Price and the Profit or loss that has occurred thereon; to which we desire may be likewise added your opinion to what extent a profitable traffic may be carried on in such Articles particularly in lead, Iron, and Copper, or in any others the produce or Manufacture of this Country or of any other European Power with whom we have any Commercial connection.

105. It appearing from the Bengal Books ending 30th April 1783 that there is due from sundry persons for Goods sold at Outcry the Sum of Current Rupees 3,79,365—14—9 as per an account thereof herewith transmitted No. [—] and it also appearing that some of the transactions are of so long a standing as 1757—and that of some of the others the parties concerned therein are now in England of character and responsibility. We direct that you take the subject into your early consideration and that you transmit us by the first dispatch the most complete information on this head stating fully the particulars of all such transactions and the causes of such accounts remaining so long unadjusted we also direct that you call upon the several parties, or their attornies, requiring them forthwith to make good the several sums due to the Company on such Account, or if any of them have come to Europe, and left no Attornies behind them, that then you transmit us an account Current against such person or persons, inserting therein every particular or information that may be necessary to enable us to recover the sums that may be so respectively due.

106. We also direct that you transmit us an Account of your Proceedings on this subject that we may be enabled to determine how far these our Orders are complied with.

107. We acquainted you in the 65th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 8th July last per Surprize that in consequence of the utility of the crossing Machines used in the Winding of Raw-Silk being universally admitted we intended sending on some of the first Ships of the Season 300 Sets of that Article, they are accordingly now shipped on the Ganges, And we repeat our directions that you acquaint us what number it may be proper to send out annually hereafter in order to keep up a necessary supply thereof.

108. The Goods we are desirous of importing from your Presidency in the Season of 1787 both as to assortments and Quantities are contained in the following list, in the course of which you will

find inserted under each separate Article our remarks upon those of former Imports and such instructions as are necessary for your future guidance.—We shall therefore in this place only observe that we expect all possible obedience will be paid thereto, as in every instance where you depart therefrom, unless you afford the most satisfactory reasons for such deviation—We shall not fail to dismiss the offending parties from our Service.

Investment to be provided in the Bay of Bengal for the Ships taken into the Company's Service in the Year 1785.

	Pieces
Addatics AD* of low prices . . . . .	3,000
Ditto F AD with Gold Heads . . . . .	1,000
Alliballies AL . . . . .	200
Alliballies F AL . . . . .	300

We have omitted to insert the Article of Alliballies superfine in the hopes that the Orders for the Coarse and fine might on that account be the more easily completed.

Atchabannies AHB to be provided agreeably to the directions sent you in the year 1773 . . . . .	1,000
---	-------

We observe that you have sent this year nearly double the quantity ordered for the two last years. We desire you will transmit your reasons for having made this increase.

Baftaes L B A F* 25 Covids long . . . . .	6,000
Do. C L B A F . . . . .	2,000
Do. I B A F + 28 Covids long . . . . .	1,000
Do. I B A F 25 Covids long . . . . .	2,500
Do. C I B A F . . . . .	500
Do. I B A F D . . . . .	2,000
Do. F I B A F D . . . . .	2,000
Do. F B A F × 28 Covids long . . . . .	1,000
Do. F B A F × 25 Covids long . . . . .	10,000
Do. C F B A F . . . . .	2,500
Do. C B A F F . . . . .	2,000
Do. F B A F 36 Covids long . . . . .	1,500
Do. B A F F 25 Covids long . . . . .	20,000
Do. B A F X . . . . .	2,000
Do. N F B A F . . . . .	4,000
Do. B B A F . . . . .	1,500
Do. S B A F . . . . .	200
Do. F B A F F . . . . .	800

\*These and other letters of the alphabet are in ligatures and used as trade symbols. For more complex ligatures similarly used see the accompanying chart.

Baftaes	B A F C	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Do.	BAF O Patna	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	700
Do.	BAFOX	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,000
Do.	X BAFO	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,000
Do.	F B AF 36 Covids long	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,500
Do.	CHTBAFC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	300
Do.	CHTBAF F	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	400
Do.	B A F M C	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,000
Do.	B A F MM	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,000
Do.	BAF C H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,500

Baftaes in general being advantageous we shall expect our Orders to be fully complied with or that you give us the most satisfactory reasons for any decrease therein. It is with pleasure we observe that the Baftaes sent us home this Year are well dressed and much approved of by the Merchants you will communicate to Mr. Grueber and the other Gentlemen concerned in the provision of this Article our approbation of their conduct.

Having struck the Articles of Blue Cloth and Chints out of our Investment we desire that the Baftaes used for those Articles may be sent home in the white to the Number of

<b>Ballasors Handkfe</b>	<b>Mul H 40 Covids long 2 broad</b>	.	.	.				<b>6,60</b>
<b>Ditto</b>	<b>F Mul H .</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Do.</b>	<b>N Mul H</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Do.</b>	<b>FN Mul H</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Do.</b>	<b>SFNMul H</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>500</b>
<b>Do.</b>	<b>SFMulH 1-3/4 Covids Broad</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>700</b>
<b>Do.</b>	<b>N Mul CHE</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	<b>500</b>

Ballasore Plain Muslin MulR the same fabrick as the Handkfs. but to be made 40 Couds long and 2 Couds broad with Gold Heads	1,000
---	-------

<b>Bandannoes</b>	BAN . . . . .	5,000
Ditto	FBAN . . . . .	2,000
Do.	CBBAN . . . . .	1,500
Do.	FCBBAN observing our Orders for a proportion of Blue	1,000
Do.	PBAN . . . . .	200

If the greater part of the Bandannoes were small and neat Patterns they would be more esteemed about 1/5th part should be dark or brown grounds. Our orders for Bandannoes are on no account to be exceeded.

[illegible]

The Callipatties should be full yard Wide.—

Carridarries	CAR 18 Covids long . . . . .	100
Ditto	LC AR 24 Covids long . . . . .	100
Carridarries	FCAR 18 Covids long . . . . .	100

As we still find an excess of the Article Carridarries notwithstanding our orders to the contrary We call upon you to transmit us your reasons for this disobedience and again repeat our directions that they be not exceeded on any pretence whatever.

The 2, 3 & 4 Stripes are not approved but the small close Red Stripes are much esteemed.

Carridarries	Chicon CAR Ch 24 Covids long . . . . .	500
Charconnaes	CHAR . . . . .	100
Chowtars	CHT . . . . .	100
Chucklaes	CH K . . . . .	100

Cossaes Bevuion CoSB 40 Covids long and 2 Covids Board.

This Article is to high priced if you can reduce the cost you may send as far as 1,000

Cossaes	F Co SB . . . . .	500
Do.	Co S B L . . . . .	1,500
Do.	FCo SBL . . . . .	1,500
Do.	CoSBH . . . . .	500
Do.	C o S Bud . . . . .	100
Do.	F Co S Bud . . . . .	100
Do.	C Co S B . . . . .	1,500
Do.	C Co S H . . . . .	1,500
Do.	Commercolly Co S, C 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,000
Cossaes	F Co SC . . . . .	6,000
Do.	Co S Com . . . . .	3,000

Particular attention must be given that the latter article runs it's full width; complaint having beed made thereon:—

Do.	Chaundpore	ChPe. Co SS. . . . .	1,500
Do.		F Chpe. Coss . . . . .	300
Do.		S F Coss . . . . .	100
Do.	Cogmaria	B B[Co] SC 3 Covids broad . . . . .	6,000
Do.		F B[B Co]SC . . . . .	500
Do.		C Co SC . . . . .	6,000
Do.		Co SG . . . . .	500
Do.		Co SC 2½ Covids broad . . . . .	6,000
Do.		FC Co S C 2½ Covids broad . . . . .	900
Do.		B Co SC . . . . .	3,000
Do.	Stitched with thread	Flo CCo SC . . . . .	1,000

We direct this quantity be procured if possible.

Cossaes Jugdea	B B Co SI . . . . .	1,000
Do.	F B B C S I . . . . .	500
Cossaes Oude	Co SOWde- . . . . .	3,000
Do.	Co S Owd . . . . .	12,000
Do.	Co S O Ud × . . . . .	10,000

We direct that the three last Articles be invoiced under the head of Callicoës—

Cossaes	Co SI 40 Covids long and 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,000
Do.	F Co SI . . . . .	1,500
Do.	Co SIO . . . . .	1,000
Do.	Co SXI . . . . .	200
Do.	Co SX 1 O . . . . .	300
Do.	F Co SF 49 Covids long and 2 Covids Wide . . . . .	2,000
Do.	F Co S F 40 Covids long & 2½ wide . . . . .	2,000
Do. Luckypore	L Coss 40 Covids long & 2 Covids Wide to be full yard wide . . . . .	4,000
Do. Malda	Co S Mal . . . . .	2,000
Do.	Co S Mal . . . . .	2,000
Do.	F B B Co SM 3 Covids broad . . . . .	1,500
Do.	B Co SM 2½ Covids broad . . . . .	600
Do.	FB Co SM . . . . .	1,500
Do.	Co SM 2 Covids broad with Gold heads . . . . .	1,300
Do.	Co S M M . . . . .	800
Do.	F Co SM . . . . .	200
Do.	Co S M A . . . . .	2,000

The last Article being much approved, we expect our orders to be fully completed.

Cossaes	Co S M . . . . .	700
Do.	F Co S M 2½ Covids broad . . . . .	1,500
Do. Flowered with thread	F Io B B Co SM 3 Covids broad . . . . .	400
Do.	F Io Co S M . . . . .	220
Do.	F Io F Co SI . . . . .	200
Do. Orna	2½OCS Covids broad without Gold heads . . . . .	6,000

This Article we desire may be well bleached, and that it be procured if possible, it being highly advantageous, the Fabrick is much approved by the Merchants but we direct that you put if possible only one letter in each Bale, and we direct that the reasons may be made known to us why there has been so great a deficiency in our former Orders.

Cossaes	CCo SS . . . . .	700
Do.	F Co SS . . . . .	500

If this last Article can be purchased from 20 to 15 per cent cheaper you may extend the order to 1500 pieces.

Cossaes	Co SS . . . . .	2,000
Do.	F Co SS . . . . .	1,000
Do.	C A L 27 Covids long and 2½ Covids broad	1,500
Do. Serra	S Co SL 40 Covids long and 2 Covids broad	2,000
Do.	F S Co SL . . . . .	1,000
Do.	M S Co S of good Fabrick 32 Covids long and 2 Covids broad . . . . .	2,000
Cossaes	S Co S 32 Covids long and 1½ Covids broad	1,500

It gives us pleasure to observe that the Malda goods are much approved by the Merchants.

Cossaes	B S o 1 Co S . . . . .	3,000
---------	------------------------	-------

Great care must be taken that the Cossaes in general are well bleached, as the indifference of their colour has been much complained of.

Cushtaes	Cusht. of the largest Stripes . . . . .	400
Cuttannees Plain Cut	. . . . .	500
Doreas	M B B[Mark 2]H C HE . . . . .	400
Do. Fine	. . . . .	200
Do.	S F BB[Mark 2] 2C HE . . . . .	100
Do.	M Doo H C H E 20 Covids . . . . .	800
Do.	40 Covids . . . . .	
Do. Coincola	[Mark 2]½ Covids broad of a middling sort	100
Do.	F [Mark 2]oS . . . . .	100
Do.	S E S S[Mark 2] D . . . . .	200
Do.	M [Mark 2] . . . . .	200
Doreas	Q,D [Mark 2] . . . . .	100
Doreas	S F [Mark 2]. . . . .	100
Do.	Doo . . . . .	450
Do.	DooD . . . . .	100
Do. Checked	CHE Doo . . . . .	500
Do.	FCHEDoo . . . . .	500
Do.	F Doo . . . . .	600
Do. Cossajura	CDoo with variety of Stripes . . . . .	1,000

If you can procure this Article from 25 to 20 per Cent cheaper you may double this quantity.

Doreas Cossajura	FC Doo . . . . .	300
------------------	------------------	-----

The two last Articles are not so fine or well made as they should be, one half should be broad stripes of different patterns and the remainder different Tape stripes but to be of one breadth in the same piece.

Doreas Charconnæ Checked	[Mark 3] C Doo . . . . .	1,500
-----------------------------	--------------------------	-------

This Article not be exceeded on any account :—

Doreas Charconnae	F C[Mark 3]C Doo . . . . .	2,000
Do. Dacca	D Doo . . . . .	500
Do.	M D Doo . . . . .	250
Do.	F D Doo . . . . .	200

We direct that this Article be complied with, and that you transmit your reasons for not sending any these 2 last years.

Doreas	Doo I T S . . . . .	300
--------	---------------------	-----

We wish the pattern of DooTS to be executed on our fine Doreas complaint being made that there is not sufficient variety of stripes.

Doreas	Doo C S . . . . .	500
Do.	S F Char . . . . .	1,000
Do.	F S F Char . . . . .	100
Do.	FSF Char 20 Covids long . . . . .	100
Do.	F Fvo M D Doo 40 Covids long . . . . .	100
Do.	DooIT . . . . .	500
Do. Gopaulpore	F Doo G . . . . .	300
Do.	F [Mark 2]G . . . . .	500
Do.	Doo [Mark 3] . . . . .	100
Do.	Doo T [Mark 3] . . . . .	100
Do.	F Doo H C HE . . . . .	300
Do.	SE Doo H C HE . . . . .	200
Do.	F Flo S F Char . . . . .	100
Do.	DBD Doo . . . . .	500
Doosuties	DooS 30 Covids long of the common Sort . . . . .	2,000
Do.	F DooS . . . . .	200
Do.	D Doo S . . . . .	100
Do.	F D Doo S . . . . .	150
Emmerties	[Mark 4] . . . . .	10,000
Do.	F[Mark 4] . . . . .	2,500
Do.	N[Mark 4] 36 Covids long one 1-1/2 Covids broad . . . . .	14,000
Do.	F N[Mark 4] . . . . .	4,000
Do.	M[Mark 5] . . . . .	1,500
Do.	[Mark 6] OL . . . . .	200
Do.	[Mark 7] . . . . .	200
Do.	[Mark 8] X . . . . .	1,000
Do.	X [Mark 9] . . . . .	1,00
Do.	[Mark 10] oude if you can procure them 15 per cent Cheaper . . . . .	2,000
Do.	N [Mark 11] . . . . .	1,000
Ginghams	G N . . . . .	500
Do.	FGN . . . . .	500

The following Colours form a proper assortment, Vizt.  
Red or Snuff

Purple

Different Shades of dark

Cloth Colours are much approved.

11 Gurrahs	LL L Gur . . . . .	not to exceed . . . . .	3,000
Do	LL Gur . . . . .	Do. . . . .	2,000
Do	F L L Gur . . . . .	Do. . . . .	800
Do	Gur 36 Covids long . . . . .		35,000
Do	F Gur . . . . .		3,000
Do	L Gur 37½ Covids long not to exceed		4,000
Do	Gur M on no account to exceed		12,000
Do	Gurr 36 Covids not to exceed		5,000
Gurrahs fine	Gurr S . . . . .		300
Do	Gurr P . . . . .		300
Do	S Gurr . . . . .		400
Humhums	H M . . . . .		300
Do	F H M . . . . .		3,000
Do	ST [Mark 12] . . . . .		800
Do	O [Mark 12] . . . . .		1,800
Chaundpore	HM [Mark 13] . . . . .		900
Do	F [Mark 14] . . . . .		500
Do	S [Mark 14] . . . . .		100
Humhums	H M M . . . . .		500
Do	HMC . . . . .		500
Do	IHM . . . . .		2,000
Do	IHMM . . . . .		700
Do	I HMM F . . . . .		800
Do	H M F . . . . .		800
Do	FML . . . . .		800

The Humhums should be full 24 Covids long and 3 Covids wide.

Laccowries	L A C 25 Covids long . . . . .	6,000
Do	L A C X . . . . .	1,000
Mammodies	MAM . . . . .	6,000
Do	O MAM . . . . .	4,000
Do	Flo MAM . . . . .	8,000
Do	Flo MAM B . . . . .	1,000
Mulmuls Cossajura	FCB B BMul 3 Covids broad . . . . .	900
Do	SFGBBBNul . . . . .	300
Do	C B Mul . . . . .	3,500
Do	FGBMul 2½ Covids broad not to exceed	1,500
Do	M F C BMul . . . . .	1,000

Æ  
1

D  
2

MR  
3

ER  
4

ER  
5

ER  
6

ER  
7

ER  
8

ER  
9

ER  
10

ER  
11

HM  
12

Chp<sup>c</sup>  
13

Chp<sup>c</sup>HM  
14

N  
15

BN  
16

£  
17

£  
18

Chart showing the trade symbols of the East India Company  
used in the correspondence



Mulmulls Cossajura	C Mul 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,200
Do	O C Mul . . . . .	1,000
Do	F C Mul . . . . .	500
Do	Flowered with thread Flo C Mul 40 Covids long and 2 Covids . broad not to exceed	100
Do	Flo C Mul 20 Covids long and 2 Covids broad	100
Do	Flo Mul . . . . .	100
Mulmulls Dacca	Mul Mah 2 Covids broad of low Prices .	4,500

You must be particularly careful in attending to the Fabrick of this Article and that you compleat our orders therein.

Mulmulls Plain	S Mul 36 Covids long and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Covids broad	3,000
Do	F Mul . . . . .	1,500
Do	S F Mul . . . . .	200
Do	F L Mul 48 Covids long . . . . .	150
Do	S F L Mul 48 Covids long . . . . .	800
Do	S F Mull 45 Covids long . . . . .	1,000
	B B BMul 40 Covids long and 3 Covids broad	500
Do	Mul R ad . . . . .	500
Do	M Mul R ad . . . . .	200
Do	Sabbatchpore SAB Mul 14 Covids long & 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Covids broad	1,000

Mulmulls Plain	F B B BMul . . . . .	200
Do	S F B B BMul . . . . .	200
Do	F Mul B . . . . .	300
Do	BMul 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Covids wide . . . . .	5,500
Do	F BMul . . . . .	1,500
Do	S F BMul . . . . .	500
Do	Muls 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,500
Do	F Mul Mah . . . . .	300
Do	Mul 40 Covids long and 2 Covids broad	2,000
Do	F Mul . . . . .	3,000
Do	F S Mul 36 Covids long and 2 Covids broad	600
Do	B F S Mul . . . . .	1,000
Do	Mul Sol . . . . .	300
Do	Mul AD . . . . .	400
Do	S F Mul Gy. . . . .	400
Nainsooks	N AN . . . . .	500
Do	F N AN . . . . .	200
Do	S F N AN . . . . .	100
Do	F N AY Chpe. . . . .	600
Do	S F N AN Chpe. . . . .	200
Do	F N AN I-40 Covids long and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Covids broad	400

We repeat that care must be taken that none of the 2 Covids wide are mixed with those of the 2½ Covids, as it is detrimental to the sale of them.

Nainsooks Jungal	S F N AN I . . . . .	200
Do	S N AN . . . . .	200
Do	C N AN . . . . .	400
Do	F F lo N AN I . . . . .	200
Do	F [Mark 15] . . . . .	1,000
Do	S F [Mark 15] . . . . .	1,500

We direct that on no account you exceed the quantity of the Nillaes here ordered.

Peniascoes	P E N . . . . .	1,500
Do	F P E N . . . . .	1,000

There having been a complaint from the Buyers that the Nillaes and Peniascoes do not run the invoice lengths of 20 Covids We desire care be taken that no cause for a complaint of this kind be made in future.

Photacs	PHO . . . . . Not to exceed .	1,200
Putcahs	Put 25 Covids long and full 2 Covids broad	2,000
Do	Chpe. Put. . . . .	1,000
Romals Barnagore	B Rom without Conjee . . . . .	500

We again repeat our directions that this Article be not exceeded on any account.

Romals Barnagore	N B Rom. without conjee not to exceed .	500
Do	C [Mark 16] . . . . .	1,000
Do	New Silk of small red and blue Check .	500
Do	Silk Lungce S L R om. red and blue .	1,000
Do Gildersey	R B G . . . . .	500
Do Pullicat	M . . . . .	1,000

This article should be red with large checks, and the corners filled with large squares without purple.

Romals Soot	Sut Rom . . . . . Not to exceed .	25,000
Do	of the French sort Sut Rom F . . . . .	1,000
Do	F Sut Rom . . . . .	5,000

Altho' we repeat our directions that the White Yarn of which the 2 last Articles are manufactured, should be well bleached to prevent their appearing of a dirty or muddy colour we must nevertheless observe that this complaint has not been made in the Goods received these two last years.

Sannoos Ballasore	S A N S . . . . .	200
Do thick	M S A N S . . . . .	100
Do	S A N S F . . . . .	300
Do	S A N S S F } Those two Articles are not to be exceeded on any Account.	500
Do	S A N S Oud not to exceed	1,000

Unless you can purchase them 20 per cent cheaper, in which case you may encrease it to 5000.

Sannoos Ballasore	S A N S X	oud not to exceed	4,000
-------------------	-----------	-------------------	-------

Unless you can purchase them 20 per Cent cheaper in the case you may encrease it to 10,000.

Sannoos thick	S A N S	oud X	10,000
---------------	---------	-------	--------

If you can purchase them 10 per cent cheaper you may encrease it to 10,000.

Seerbands	Seer B	1,500
Do	F Seer B	1,500
Seerbetties	Seer B.	2,500
Do	M Seer B. t	1,000
Do	F Seer B. t S	500
Do	Seer B. t S	500
Seerhaudconnaes	Jungal Sec h.	700
Do	F Seer h l	400
Seersuckers	Seer S of low prices	400
Do	F Seer S 24 Covids long	750
Do	F Seer S 24 Covids long	750
Do	F Seer S F not to exceed	200

You are on no account to exceed the quantity ordered unless you can purchase them 30 per Cent lower.

Seershauds Std.	See S S	1,000
Sosies	L. Soo 50 Covids long & 1½ Covids broad	300
Do	Soo 40 Covids long & 2 Covids wide . not to exceed	300

Let there be sent in one of the Bales 50 pieces of plain white stripes and the remaining 50 of red and white stripes.

Taffaties Plain	F A F	1,000
Do	All red with yellow Selvages R T A F	400
Do	B T A F	600
Do	T A F U	500

The Orders on Taffaties are by no means to be exceeded unless they can be purchased 20 per cent cheaper--

Taffaties [Mark 17] all red striped to be packed by themselves.

1,500

We expect this order will be fully complied with.—

Tanjecbs	F B B T B A N I	150
Do	S F B B T B A N I	150
Do	Dacca T A N B 2½ Covids broad all with Gold heads.	400
Do	T A N 2 Covids broad	2,000
Do	F T A N	2,500

Tanjees	with Gold heads . . . . .	1,000
Do	S F T A N Having ordered No. FSFTAN we expect this order will be fully complied with	500
Do	F M T A N . . . . .	1,000
Do	T A N I . . . . .	200
Do Jungal	F A N I . . . . .	12,000
Do Jungal	S F T A N I Having ordered no F S F T A N I We expect this order will be complied with	750
Do Santose	T A V 2½ 1,000 Covids broad of low Prices .	
Do	F T A V with Gold heads . . . . .	800
Do	C I B T A V . . . . .	100
Do	T A V S 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,000
Do Serra	T A V S 36 Covids long and 2½ Covids . broad	1,000
Do Serra	T A V S 36 Covids long & 2 Covids broad .	1,500
Do Serra	T A V S 36 Covids long & ¾ Covids broad	1,000

The 3 last Articles not to be encreased except they can be purchased at least 10 per ct. cheaper.

Do	F T A Y S 36 Covids long 1½ Covids wide	1,000
Do	36 Covids long 2½ Covids wide	1,000
Do	36 Covids long and 2 Covids wide . . . . .	750
Do	T A N N . . . . .	700
Do	F T A N N . . . . .	200
Do	T A Buddall (from 7 to 10 Rupees per piece) with Gold Flowers . . . . .	500
Terrindams	[Mark 18] R 2½ Covids broad of low price	1,000
Do	F[Mark 18] R 40 Covids long. . . . .	700
Do	F[Mark 18] R CY. . . . .	700
Do	SF[Mark 18] R 40 Covids long. . . . .	1,500
Do Coincola	C [Mark 18] 40 Covids long and 2½ Covids broad	500
Do Do	[Mark 18] R S . . . . .	1,000
Do Do	F F lo F [Mark 18] R Stitched 40 Covids long	500
Do Do	F F lo F [Mark 18] R 20 Covids long . . . . .	300

The 2 last Articles should be small sprigs and full of work the Cloth very fine.

We refer you to the Orders we gave in our last list of Investment dated 11th April 1785 respecting the providing a quantity of Muggadooties and Mugga and repeat the same for the present Season.

109. We are happy in having it in our power to express our satisfaction at the Dacca provision, particularly in the Articles of Tanjees, Mulmuls and Dooreas tho' the latter are too dear, the Terrindams have likewise turned out well but are in the finer Assortments too high priced: we have the same objection to make

to the Nainsooks and Seerhaud connaes which we hope in the next Investment will be removed.

110. The foregoing Articles are estimated in the Gross at the prime cost of about £ 7,00,000—we confide in your Zeal and active exertions to procure us an Investment in piece Goods to the full amount of that Sum, and if the state of your Funds will admit of carrying it further it will be a most agreeable circumstance, we do not however imagine that in every instance you may be able to conform exactly to the Quantities of each particular Species of Goods now ordered, it is therefore our direction that the deficiencies of those Articles wherein you may fall short be made up by an increase

Malda Cossaes  
Emmerties  
Laccowries  
Mulmuls  
Seerbettees &  
Terrindams

111. Your must avoid mixing different Goods in the same bale and as far as the same can possibly be avoided even the same Goods of different letters as the same is attended with inconvenience.

#### Raw Silk

112. Our directions respecting the quantity and quality of raw Silk to be annually sent home were so fully conveyed to you in our letter of 11th April 1785—Paragraph 31 to 42, that there remains no material addition to be made thereto at present, we have only to express our concern that what we have since exposed to sale has continued productive of great loss; that you may be better judge of this fact we send you by this conveyance the sale Books by which you will see the price at which each lot was sold, and we also send you the report of Messrs Tatlocks on the Quality of the different lots No [.....] These Circumstances are so strong that little is left to be said in addition thereto. You are well aware of the consequence of this import, not alone to the Company but to the Manufacture at large which stands next in rank in this Country to that of the Woollens. We fully confide in your having given the most serious consideration to the subject, and that we shall, in the result, experience the most advantageous benefit from it, sorry are we to remark that ability is not the only thing wanting to perfect the quality of this valuable raw material—for among the lots in private Trade one per Earl of Oxford lot 1934 March Sale 1785 sold at 34 s. 10 d. P bb whilst highest price paid for any of the Company's was 27s. 2d. you may judge from this remark that we are not inattentive to your Conduct, and our censure must naturally follow in a severe manner should we not find that our directions of the last year, produce the proper effect.

#### Cotton Yarn

113. In addition to the circumstance of this Article being a losing one, we have for certain prudential reasons struck the same out of

our list of Investment; and we desire that no more may be sent us on any account. We have also prohibited the importation of it in private Trade of which our Commanders have notice in their instructions. We cannot however quit this Article without expressing our astonishment at the little attention that has been paid to our former orders thereon; we for some years past indented for a quantity of the finest assortment none of which was ever received though it found it's way in private Trade to great advantage.—Our complaints of the inferiority of the Quality of what you did send were also for years repeated, but with so little success that at the last September sale we beheld our own selling for 1 s.—4 d. to 4 s.—7 d the lb, but averaging only 1 s.—9 d. and at the March sale 1786 nearly the whole of it was struck out from the badness of it's quality while at the same the Article produced in private Trade for 6 s.—2 d. to 15 s. the lb and averaged 11 s.—8½ d.

### Indigo

114. We entered largely into the subject of Indigo by our letter of the 11th April 1785 and we then represented the necessity there was of your paying a most particular attention to the Quality, as well as to the shape of it, sorry are we that we have again to lament the loss we sustain by this article; the particulars of the sales since that period, which we inclose herein for your information will better prove it than any thing we can write upon the subject; when we reflect upon the cheapness of labour in Bengal, and the favourable Climate it enjoys we cannot harbour a doubt of the possibility of making Indigo a most valuable Article of importation, neither can we too strongly inculcate the necessity of your paying the most strict attention to it; we are confident that it might become one of the very best means of remittance to this Country, and one of the least prejudicial exports from Bengal, we send you also a number in this Packet, the opinions of some of the principal Brokers in that branch, on the parcels last sold you will naturally conclude from the information we gave you last year, and the present advices, that unless very material alterations in price and in the Quality and shape of the Indigo take place we shall be under the necessity of prescribing the Import of that Article, notwithstanding our earnest desire to promote the culture of it.

### Redwood

115. We mentioned the Article of Redwood in our letter of the 21st September last Paragraph 35 and we are sorry to say circumstances grow constantly worse for this Article; we have now on hand 419 Tons and the whole quantity we could sell in the March and September sales 1785 was but 187 Tons, and in March sale 1786, 36 Tons only at the price of £24—10 per Ton you will from this circumstance as also from the loss we sustain thereon judge how necessary it is to reduce your shipping of that commodity, we think that you may reduce the cost of it considerably, for unless we can sell it at a lower rate than we are now enabled to do the use of it must decrease—Our Dyers, find other Articles of less value to substitute in lieu of it, and from your attention alone can we flatter ourselves to continue it's Import.

## Rattans

116. Those we received per Southampton, Vanasittart, and Besborough have turned out advantageous and as we conceive they will equally as well answer for dunnage as Redwood, we direct that you Ship as far as 100 Maunds in the course of each season for such purpose, and that you make the suitable reduction in the Article of Redwood accordingly.

## Sapan Wood

117. This article will not go off even at a losing price, for the same reasons as pointed out in the article of Redwood, we therefore direct that no more of it be sent on any account.

## Shellack

118. This is an Article on which we have the same ground for complaint as in Cotton Yarn. The Company's Shellack at the September sale averaged only £ 4.5 the Cwt while that in private Trade at the same Sale averaged £ 8.2. 6 and in the March sale 1786, the whole of the Company's was struck out upon inspecting a sample of each we instantly found that the cause was owing to the Company's being so very deficient in quality to that in private Trade. As there is at present no want of this Article in the Market, unless you can make a considerable reduction in the price, as well as procure it of a much superior Quality, we would not have any sent till you receive further directions.—In chusing this Article the largest stoutest leaves and brightest in colour is to be preferred. The thin leaved chagrained orange Colour does not meet with ready purchasers although the appearance of brightness may be supposed to be in its favor samples of that sent by you on our own account and of the same Article imported in private Trade are sent in the accompanying Packet.

## Sticklack

119. Is a losing Article owing to it's high price and indifferent Quality unless both can be remedied it will not answer, as the chief use of this Article is supposed to be from the colour that is extracted therefrom, the Black or Brown Gum is to be preferred as yielding the richest Dye it should be freed from all appearance of Lumplack which are only hard coagulated particles and the Quantity of Sticks should be avoided as much as possible, taking care that the Gum is not too much fragmented or pulverized thereby. At present there is a glut in the Market but with attention to the quality and price a quantity of 15 Tons might probably be taken off annually to some advantage.

## Turmerick

120. Patna Tons 12 if it can be procured at a cheaper rate than formerly paying due attention that the quality is preserved.

## Fossil Alkali

121. None on any account.

## Salt Petre

122. We entered very fully into the subject of Salt Petre by your letter of the 21st September last, to which we refer you and wait your Answer to the different informations required therein. Our stock on hand at this time including that by the Glatton just arrived is upwards of 80,000 Bags, we therefore repeat our directions that on no account you lade upon any Ship more than the Stipulated quantity of 3,000 Bags, we have again been called upon by the Gunpowder Makers to make a considerable reduction in the price of this Article which we have been under the necessity of complying with, as the Dutch, the Danes and the Portuguese are selling it so cheap that without such reduction we should have risked throwing the supply of Africa, America & ca into the hands of the foreign Gunpowder Makers. That other nations who are only supplied through our medium should be enabled to sell Salt Petre cheaper than us is a matter (we must again repeat) of real surprize and calls upon us and upon yourselves for the most serious investigation, we are convinced that with proper care on your parts such a reduction may be made in the price of this Article as to render it a beneficial branch of our commerce, we therefore direct that you take into immediate consideration which will be most for our advantage for providing it by Contract or by making advances to the Assamies, if you should adopt the former mode, you will make your intentions known in the most public manner possible by advertisements at Calcutta and at Patna inviting the Native Merchants to come forward with their proposals for supplying you with that Article and we most strictly enjoin you to give the Contract to those who tender on the lowest proposals, but should you determine to make the purchases by advances to the Assamees you must be particularly careful to avoid incurring balances, we also direct that in addition to the information required in our letter of the 21st September last on the subject of Salt Petre you acquaint us what price the Assamies receive P Maund in what Rupees they are paid, the weight of the Maund, and what allowance (if any is made for wastage) and in this as well as in every other instance relative to our Investment we expect you to detail in your letters as well as on your Consultations the steps you pursue to comply with our orders.

123. By the Earl Cornwallis there were received near 7 Tons of Sweepings of the most inferior sort to which you give the name, and charge us at the price of good Salt Petre; in order that you may form a proper judgment how well we are founded in this complaint we send a Box of it on board the Lansdown and Ravensworth. Our censure would be very severe were we to suppose you had sent it to us as Salt Petre, we are inclined to hope that some fraud must have been practised on board the Vessels which Carried it from Calcutta to the Ship, But we direct that you will make the most minute enquiry into this fraud, and inform us of the result, should any such irregularity happen in future we shall hold you answerable for it's Consequences.

124. The Gunpowder Manufacturers have been afraid to purchase the refined Salt Petre you have of late sent; Their not purchasing it at an Advanced price induced us to have it analysed by Dr. Bryant Higgins, one of the most celebrated Chymists of this Country and who is employed by the Board of Ordnance in refracting the Salt Petre purchased by that Board; a Copy of whose report comes a Number in the Packet, as it appears from the said report that the Petre is scarcely 4 per Cent better for the refinement it has undergone, and as only 2,000 Bags thereof have not been yet sold we repeat our directions of the 21st September last that no more of the refined sort be sent home on any account.

125. One other circumstance we must touch upon relative to Salt Petre which is the badness of the Bags in which it is packed, notwithstanding the price of them in the year 1779 appears to have been increased from 8 to 12 Annas each Bag; In the Ships of last season so many of them were perished that at the present sale we have no less than 770 Bags of sweepings that we are obliged to put at 15 s. the Cwt below the price of the ordinary Petre, which consequently brings a considerable loss upon the Company—we therefore repeat the directions contained in our letter of the 21st September last, that the Salt Petre be packed in the strongest gunny Bags that can be procured in order to prevent the like in future taking care at the same time, that we suffer no imposition in the charges of such Bags.

126. Upon inspecting the head of Charges of Merchandize in our Invoice we find that of late years there has been a general increase in the Articles of Embaling, Sloop hire, and Cooley and Boat hire upon our piece Goods, as well as in the Bags and Sloop hire of Salt Petre and other articles, as the necessity of these advances are by no means apparent to us, we direct that you furnish us with compleat information relative thereto, and we most positively enjoin you on every future occasion; where there may be any alteration in the price or charges of any article of our commerce that you detail the reasons of such alteration that we may be enabled to judge how far you have been warranted in allowing thereof.

127. In order that we may hereafter in framing our list of Investment be the better enabled to apportion the quantities of each species of Goods in general, by a knowledge of how far our former orders either have been, or are capable of being complied with, we direct that you frame and transmit us by the last Ship of each Season an account made up in Columns according to the annexed form, stating at one view the quantities of such Goods ordered by us, the quantities of such Goods contracted for by you, with whom, at what price, and where provided if any deviation is made by you in contracting for either more or less than the quantities ordered, your reason for such deviation, The quantity that shall be received of such Contractor, and if any difference in the quantity contracted for, the reasons for such difference together with your opinions framed from the best intelligence that can be obtained how far the quantity of each particular species of Goods may be annually extended without debasing the Quality or affecting the prime cost.

128. We direct that a Copy of the said form be sent to every subordinate Factory or place where Goods are provided under your charge, with suitable directions for furnishing you in due time with the necessary materials for framing such account. We cannot quit this subject without informing you that any failure in the transmission of such account will be attended with the severest marks of our displeasure.

129. We direct that you mark on each Package of weighable Goods the Tare in English weight except when the Packages are so nearly alike as that the whole parcel of Goods are purchased at the same tare for each Package, we also direct that in invoicing the Goods the tares of each Package be likewise inserted except as mentioned in the former case, as such a practice will be found very useful in the course of our adjusting and bringing forward such Goods for sale.

#### General Observations

130. Having received information that great quantities of Diamonds and India and China Goods of all kinds are smuggled from our Ships on their arrival in England, and being determined to put an end to practices so detrimental to the Revenue, the Company and the fair Trader, we have caused an advertisement to be made public in England, Copies whereof are transmitted herewith,\* and we direct that you do the like at Bengal, either by posting the same in the most conspicuous parts of the settlement, or by such other mode as you shall judge best adapted for the purpose of it's being most generally known as it is a most and essential part of your duty to co-operate with us in the suppression of so alarming an Evil; we direct if any circumstances shall come to your knowledge of illicit Trade being carried on by any of our Commanders or Officers or others either outward or homeward bound that you make the particulars of the same known to us with the names of the offending Parties, we being determined to dismiss from our Service every person however high in rank or whatever may be his station who shall either be concerned in smuggling himself or conniving at it in others.

131. We transmit for your particular examination Samples of some Muslins Fabricated in this Kingdom, and as you will thereby perceive the rapid strides that are making by the Manufacturers in the improvement of those Goods we rely on your using your utmost endeavor in causing the strictest attention to be paid by the weavers to the quality and fabric of the goods in general, and that your purchases be made on the most frugal terms possible as it is from an attention to all these circumstances that we must depend for obtaining a preference for our own Goods over those of the home Manufacturers.

132. We rely on your exertion to expedite the loading of our Ships with every possible dispatch, in order to prevent as much as possible our being sufferers in the Article of demorage.

\*Not available with the N.A.I. copy.

133. It gives us much satisfaction to find by your letter of the 4th August last that you have discovered the mode in which we have so long been plundered in the Article of piece Goods. The attention shewed to this subject by the President and Members of our Board of Trade as also our Export Warehouse-Keeper is highly commendable and we rely on your exertions in bringing to punishment the persons concerned in these offences as well as to concert the best methods for preventing the like pernicious practices in future.

134. We direct that you give the necessary Orders that there be framed and numbered in the same manner as the Cards now transmitted you from Manchester &ca a Card or Cards containing a compleat set of patterns of every species of piece Goods whatever fabricated or manufactured within Bengal or any of the Neighbouring Provinces whether as Articles of Exports to Europe or elsewhere or for internal consumption that you place against each particular species of Goods a number and also the usual lengths, breadths and current price of the same that the Card or Cards so framed be transmitted to us (if possible) by the first returning Ship after the receipt of these Advices and that a duplicate of such Card or Cards marked and numbered in the same manner be kept in the Office of the Export Warehouse Keeper to be at hand in case we should have occasion to refer you thereto.

135. In our list of investment dated 11th April 1785 we directed you to send us home regularly a price current of all the Articles of Commerce of your Country; we confirm our Orders on that head, and expect you will be as exact as possible in complying with them. The very heavy duties to which most Drugs are exposed and the consequent extent of smuggling thereof as well out of our Ships as from the Continent have induced us to apply to the Right Hon'ble the Lords of the Treasury so to mitigate them as to enable us to extend greatly the sale thereof, we trust our application will be favorably attended to, and that our imports will naturally be such as to make London the great Mart of Indian Drugs.

136. We send you in this Packet a printed price Current of most of those Articles from which you will easily see that great attention is required in your purchasing on the best possible terms as otherwise the Company will not derive a suitable benefit from that part of it's Commerce.

137. In almost every invoice we observe new marks which lead us and the Buyers to believe they are new Fabricks but upon examination we find you might with great propriety have sent them under the established Marks. This is particularly the case in regard to Baftaes and we desire it may be avoided in future.

138. If you wish at any time to distinguish a particular Parcel of Goods you can always do it in the invoice & in the letter that accompanies it.

139. We direct that in all Contracts entered into for the provision of any part of our Investment there be inserted a penal Clause by

which the Contractor shall oblige himself upon his failure of providing the full Quantity of Goods contracted for to make good to the Company a certain Sum per piece on all piece goods and per Maund or Seer on all weighable Goods on the quantities that shall be deficient, we also direct that you be careful in taking from the Contractors proper securities for their making good their Engagements, and that you be punctual in calling upon such securities for the penalties that shall be incurred by any breach thereof.

140. We direct that you send us home as early as possible after the receipt of this Letter copies of all Contracts relative to our Investment made since the year 1774 with an exact account how far they were fulfilled, and the amount and mode in which the penalties were levied in the event of a failure.

141. Being desirous to ascertain with as much accuracy as the nature of the subject will admit the ability of our Provinces to supply Investments for the Europe, Indian, Persian, and Arabian Markets we direct you to instruct your Chief or Resident at each Factory and Aurung to send you as exact a statement as can be obtained of the quantities of Goods manufactured at each place for exportation mentioning by whom provided, the number of pieces of Cloth or Silk piece Goods, Maunds of Raw Silk, and the total amount in Current Rupees agreeable to the enclosed form No. [—] and when the whole are transmitted to you, you will then make one General statement agreeable to the form No. [—] which you will endeavour to make as correct as possible by means of the Books of Government Customs and any other documents you may be able to obtain this General Statement as well as the returns from the Factories and Aurungs you must be careful to send us in duplicate.

142. Although we highly approve of your having introduced the Oude Cloths into our List of Investment being convinced that a Provision of piece Goods may be made in that Province to great Advantage, we are nevertheless concerned to find that you have taken no steps to make yourselves acquainted with the nature of that Trade but have been content to accept such tenders as Mr. Scott chose to make you.

143. Upon the receipt of this letter we most strictly enjoin you to make it known in the Province of Oude that you are ready to Contract with Native Merchants for the quantities ordered in our list of Investment and even for a much larger quantity if there is a suitable reduction in the price, and as a provision of piece Goods in the Province of Oude will be of advantage to the Vizier by keeping specie to the Amount of that Investment, in his Dominions, we can have no doubt of his co-operating with you in rendering it mutually advantageous to the Company and his Manufacturers.

144. We therefore direct our Governor General to write the Vizier requesting him to give his countenance and protection to the persons with whom you may contract for the provision of the Oude Investment at the same time pointing out to him the advantages his Country will derive therefrom, and we most positively order that you make your contracts if possible with the Native Subjects of the

Nabob Vizier, whilst we direct this we are fully aware of the necessity of some Persons being on the Spot to receive the Goods from the Contractors to inspect and Ship them off for Calcutta, as also that there should be one Resident at the Vizier's Court to represent to him any matters relative to the Investment, but these persons must absolutely be Natives, well acquainted with the nature of our business, which they are to confine themselves to and on no pretence whatever, are they to trade themselves or interfere in the business of the Circar.

145. We have long complained of the improvident manner of procuring our Investments; and of the produce of our Goods upon the sales having been much less than it ought to have been; on lately making a further Investigation of this very important business, we have discovered such gross misconduct in our Servants employed in the Commercial Departments in India, as may make it necessary not only to establish new Regulations, but probably to commence suits against some of the Company's Servants and some Contractors who have supplied part of the Investments conceiving that these Arrangements and the necessary Orders may be better conducted and given both for despatch and secrecy by a Select Committee than by the whole Court, we have put this business entirely under the direction of our Committee of Warehouses, whose opinions and Orders are to be carried into execution by our Secret Committee appointed under the late Act of Parliament, we therefore do hereby positively order and direct that whatever orders shall be given by any of the Ships of this Season by our said Secret Committee (consisting at present of William Devaynes Esqr. Our Chairman and Nathaniel Smith Esqr. our Deputy Chairman) respecting the past Investment or respecting the procuring the next year's Investment, or any part thereof shall be obeyed in like manner as if such orders had been signed by the whole Court.

146. Having taken into consideration the several modes adopted in Bengal for the Provision of the Investments for Europe, we shall communicate to you such observations as we have made upon this subject together with our instructions thereon.

147. The mode of providing an Investment by Contract appears to us, all circumstances considered, the cheapest, the most certain, and the least subject to loss as not being liable to outstanding balances; on the other hand, it is attended with some disadvantages; it subjects the Native Manufacturers, in some degree, to the discretion of the Contractors, who cannot fulfil their engagements without a considerable share of Authority, it precludes or at least diminishes, the opportunities of improving the Manufactures themselves, and it leaves an opening for litigation with the Contractors in case of a failure on their parts.

148. In some instances the defects here noted may be remedied by providing the Investments by Advances to the Native Manufacturers through our Commercial Residents, who it may be supposed, will treat the Manufacturers with more justice and lenity than Native or indeed any Contractors, and who will have an interest in improving the quality of the Goods they are to provide. The

principal objection which occurs to us against this mode arises from a consideration of the loss to which we are subject from outstanding balances.

149. We are also sensible that the inconveniencies suggested by either system may be remedied, in great measure, by the care and attention of our servants abroad; and having the greatest reliance on your ability, Zeal, and Integrity we shall not positively restrict you in your choice of either of these modes perhaps they may both be employed for the advantage of the Company, and in that case should be adopted as the Superior consideration of the Company's interest directs. Upon the whole although we have admitted the exercise of your discretion, we acknowledge ourselves inclined to prefer the mode of contracting for the Investment, and particularly in those Articles where the quality of the Goods can be easily ascertained by fixed Musters.

150. We therefore lay down the following resolutions for your guidance whenever Contracts are entered into.

- 1st. The terms of the several Contracts are to be adjusted by our Board of Trade, subject nevertheless to the revision of our Governor General in Council.
- 2d. The Contracts are to be open alike to Europeans or Natives; to the Servants of the Company, or private Merchants; we think it however necessary to except the Members of our Board of Trade and the respective Residents.
- 3d. The conditions of the Contract must be carefully attended to in the framing of them, and inviolably adhered to in the execution with respect to quantity, quality, price, and times of delivering the goods contracted for.
- 4th. The Contracts are to be drawn out with a penalty annexed of at least 30 per cent on the price for which they were contracted at, for non-performance of any of the Articles.
- 5th. A condition is to be inserted binding the Contractors not to deliver any Goods to foreigners, nor to any Agents, either Native, or others of foreigners. They are likewise to bind themselves not to deliver to any individual whatever any of the Company's assortments till such time as their Contract for such Assortment is completely fulfilled.
- 6th. The penalty in case of any material failure, allowing, for unavoidable accidents (of which our Governor General in Council must be the judge) is to be invariably levied.
- 7th. After the Contracts are made with sufficient persons or under the sanction of a sufficient security it will be the duty of our Board of Trade, or their Officers, to see that the Quality of the Goods on delivery correspond with the Muster agreed upon, and to them we trust our interests in this very material point.

151. The number of subordinate Factories and Residencies appears to us capable of a reduction particularly where Contracts are entered into, in which case the Goods contracted for may be made deliverable at Calcutta, Patna, Dacca, or some of our principal Factories—We do not however limit them to any precise number; for although we consider an attention to the strictest oeconomy in this; as well as in all other Articles, indispensable, we are too sensible of the necessity of training up our servants in the knowledge and experience necessary for conducting our Commercial Affairs, to wish to deprive them of the means of acquiring that useful knowledge, by reducing the Commercial Residencies to the smallest possible standard.

152. There is likewise another consideration which weighs with us against it, the propriety of having, within a reasonable distance of each station a person properly qualified to receive Complaints and afford redress whenever necessary, alike to the Contractor, as the Manufacturer, according as one may become oppressive, or the other attempt to evade his engagements, by debasing the quality, or withholding the delivery of the Goods; but this person, in many instances, may we conceive, be found in the Revenue Chiefs and Residents, and here we must with concern remark that our Servants employed in the two Departments of Revenue and Commerce have in many instances acted as if they had different interests to support, and the dispute whichever way it terminated, ultimately ended in our loss.—When our Servants in the Revenue line, protect the Manufacturers against the just claims of our Agents and Contractors; it counteracts the only means by which our possessions in Bengal can be of solid advantage to us, and when our Servants in the Commercial line afford this support to the Manufacturers against the Claims of Government they deprive us of the means by which we can procure an Investment from Bengal. To sum up the whole of this subject, we expect that our Servants whether in the Revenue or Commercial line, shall consider the happiness of the Natives, and our interest their principal objects, and that they do not allow personal pique, or a vain desire of superiority, to operate to the prejudice of them. And we request that you will keep a watchful eye over the Conduct of our Servants in this particular, and punish, with an exemplary severity, every instance of misconduct so manifestly injurious to the Company.

153. In order that we may be able to judge of the different merits of our Servants, who conduct the provision of the Investment, and of the Contractors whether servants of the Company Europeans or Natives, such reference must be made to the Goods as to enable us to distinguish how, or by whom provided.

154. To secure the Manufactures from being debased in Quality or enhanced in price, we think it prudent to restrict from any Concerns in Trade for themselves, directly or indirectly, or for any other except the Company, the four Members of the Commercial Board in Calcutta and the several Residents for the purpose of providing our Investments up the Country; and in order to encourage a spirit of emulation of 2½ per cent to be drawn in Bengal on the prime Cost of our Commercial line of our Affairs, we have agreed to permit a commission of 2½ per cent to be drawn in Bengal on the prime Cost of our

Investment; and a further Commission of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to be drawn in London on the Nett Profits arising on the sales in England, estimating the Current Rupee at 2 Shillings, and deducting from the Gross sales, Customs, Freight, demorage and 5 per cent for Charges, these two Commissions we calculate on an average will yield about £ 50,000 a year  $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of which is to be divided amongst the four Members of our Commercial Board in the following proportions Viz.

To the Senior Servant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	£ 6,000
to the Second	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,000
to the Third	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,000
to the Fourth	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,000
								<hr/> £ 20,000 <hr/>

Of the above Sums, supposing the Investment to amount to one Crore of Current Rupees, there will be payable to them in India, one per Cent, viz.

To the Senior Servant	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30,000
To the Second	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25,000
To the Third	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25,000
To the Fourth	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	20,000
Ct. Rs. . . . .								<hr/> 1,00,000 <hr/>

which will be more or less according to the amount of the Investment.

155. The part to be paid in England will rise or fall in proportion to the Zeal, fidelity and attention with which the Investment is provided.

156. Although we have not limited the Number of Residents, yet we think they probably will not exceed nine or ten. They are to be paid in India  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Per Cent on such parts of the Investment as each Resident shall individually provide, without including that part of the Investment which is provided by the Commercial Board at Calcutta, upon which, and to whom no commission in India is to be allowed beyond the 1 per Cent beforementioned.

157. In like manner in England after deducting  $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent on the profits as before specified to be paid to our Commercial Board the remaining  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths of the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent are to be paid to our said Residents, and the portion to each will arise from those parts of the Investment which they respectively provide, exclusive of any share of the profits that may arise on that part of the Investment provided by our Commercial Board at Calcutta.

158. Mr. Lyon Prager, whom we permitted to proceed to Benares to carry on the Diamond Trade, as advised in our letter of the 8th March having represented to us that if he should be appointed the Company's Inspector and Purchaser of Drugs, he should be able to establish from a declining and losing Trade, a most permanent and beneficial one for the Company; and as a constant annual loss has

arisen on the Drugs imported on the Company's account from India, we have determined to accept Mr. Prager's proposal, and accordingly direct that he be employed in the immediate purchase and inspection of the Company's Drugs for Europe, and as a compensation for his services in this business we have agreed to allow him a Commission of one tenth of the Nett Average Profits of such Drugs as shall be Bought under his immediate purchase and inspection and to pay the same to his attorney in England, valuing the Current Rupees at 2s. Two Shillings.

159. In our letter of the 14th Ultimo we communicated to you our orders relative to the Trade of Assam—and as it is probable that large quantities of Salt belonging to private Merchants may be remaining at Gualparah we hereby direct that you allow a reasonable time, not exceeding ten Months, for the disposal of such private Salt. In the mean time you will give Public Notice of our intentions respecting the future vend of this Commodity in the Country of Assam and take care that no more Salt be sent to Gualparah on private Account.

160. Being informed that Mr. Joseph Thomas Brown now Resident at Calcutta, employed four years previous to his departure from this Country in acquiring a knowledge of India piece Goods and being assured, from unquestionable authority, that he has with great success, devoted his time and attention while in India, to the study of all the different sorts manufactured there, we direct that in case of the death, resignation or coming away of Mr. Prinsep, you avail yourselves of the peculiar knowledge of Mr. Brown, in this interesting branch of our Commerce; and if it should be thought necessary to employ him in assisting the Superintendant of the Cloth Investment, we direct that you allow him such a Gratuity from time to time, as shall appear reasonable—But you are to observe that Mr. Brown is to receive no appointment, nor be entitled to any rank in the Company's service, it being our meaning that you should benefit yourselves by his advice and assistance in this particular branch during his residence at Calcutta, whenever you shall think either may promote the Company's Interest.

### *Supplemental*

#### *Public Department*

161. We enclose you several Copies of an Act of Parliament lately passed entitled "An Act to explain and amend certain provisions of an Act made in the twenty fourth year of the Reign of his present Majesty respecting the better regulation and management of the Affairs of the East India Company"—and direct your punctual obedience thereto.

162. By the Act of Parliament just passed the powers of our Governor General of Bengal<sup>4</sup> and the Governors of our other Settlements are greatly encreased.—We wish the principle which dictated that arrangement to be fully attended to, and shall therefore feel great displeasure if, on any occasion, from competition for patronage, or any other cause, that principle be infringed and as we are

determined ourselves to pay the utmost attention to the opinions of our several Governors in the disposal of all offices in their respective Settlements so we expect that the same sentiment be adopted by the other Members of our Council in India and the utmost deference be paid to the recommendation of the Governor General of Bengal and the Governors of our other Presidencies in the arrangement of the Patronage in India—When you are not guided by our Express orders.

163. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Court of Directors have come to the following Resolutions viz.

“Resolved unanimously that the Thanks of this Court be given to John Macpherson Esqr. for his meritorious conduct to this Company in the reform and reduction in the expences of the Government of Bengal, during his presiding in the Chair at that Presidency, and for the zeal and abilities he has shewn therein.”

Resolved unanimously that the Thanks of this Court be given to Lieutenant General Robert Sloper, John Stables Esqr. and the Hon’ble Charles Stuart, the other Members of the Council for their zeal and attention in co-operating with Mr. Macpherson in carrying into execution those salutary measures.”

164. We have received a letter from William Hay Esqr. a Copy whereof is enclosed, signifying that by authority of John Stables Esqr. he is to request that Gentleman may have permission to resign his Seat in the Supreme Council at Calcutta, and to return to England in the course of the ensuing Season, some time between the Months of October 1786 and May 1787, and have accordingly resolved that John Stables Esqr. be permitted to resign his seat in the Supreme Council and to return to England within the time limited in Mr. Hays Letter.

165. We have further resolved that Mr. John Shore be appointed to succeed to the Supreme Council on the first Vacancy.

#### *Military Department*

166. As an Act passed in this session of Parliament has enabled the Company to unite in the same person the Office of Governor General and Commander in Chief and Lord Cornwallis having undertaken the Office of Governor General, we think it may be attended with the most beneficial consequences, at this time to invest his Lordship with the Supreme Power both Civil and Military—And as this Arrangement changes materially the circumstances under which Lieutenant General Sloper received his present appointment, and as we conceive, that, with the Military Power thus placed in the Governor General, General Sloper’s situation can no longer be equally important for our Service, or equally suitable to his own Rank and abilities, and that the expense of a separate Commander in Chief may be avoided; we have thought it expedient to revoke his Appointment. But being particularly anxious that he should understand our resolution to have been guided solely by the

desire of making that union of Civil and Military power, which we conceive, both in a general view, and from the personal Character of Lord Cornwallis to promise the most salutary effects, and to testify the strong sense we retain of Lieutenant General Sloper's Zeal and merits towards the Company in undertaking his present situation, and our most cordial approbation as far as we are enabled to judge from the accounts which left Bengal since his arrival, of the important part which he appears to have borne in the measures taken for the reduction of our Military Expenses and at the same time our unwillingness to adopt any measure, however advantageous to our General interests in a way that can be personally prejudicial to him; we have resolved to settle upon him an Annuity of £ 1500, to commence from the day of his resignation of the Office of Commander in Chief of the Company's Forces in India, and to allow him £ 1,000 to defray the expense of his passage to England.

167. We send a number in the Packet a copy of the letter we have thought proper to write to the General on the occasion.

168. As the Offices of Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Company's Forces are now vested in one person you are to observe that the Salary of £ 6,000 per Annum formerly given to the Commander in Chief is to cease and determine immediately upon the arrival of Lord Cornwallis in Bengal.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

W. Devaynes/Nath. Smith/John  
Motteux/Samuel Smith Jr./Thos.  
Cheap/Step: Lushington/Thos.  
Fitzhugh/Paul Le Mesurier/Hugh  
Inglis/Chas. Mills/E Boehm/F.  
Baring/Thos. Parry/Lionell Darell.  
Abram Roberts/Jno/Michie.

London  
the 12th April 1786.  
[Copy per *Swallow*]

5

LETTER DATED 12TH APRIL 1786

*Economy in revenue establishment — disastrous consequences of arbitrary increase in revenue settlements—settlement based on averages of previous collections and errors there-in—settlement in perpetuity to be made after finalising study of revenue records—Committee of Revenue and Collectors with civil jurisdiction separated from Supreme Board.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have seen with much satisfaction the active attention you have paid to the reduction of our enormous Revenue Establishment, and entirely approve the several retrenchments stated in your Inspection Letter of March 25th and July 31st 1785. In this you have

anticipated the remarks we intended to have made upon several Articles, which a minute Review of the Offices in the Revenue Department has shown us to be superfluous or extravagant.

2. We trust that you have proceeded without relaxation in this important and necessary work, and that the ready submission of our servants to a system of subordination and Economy will enable you to accomplish the intended reform, without calling for any exercise of those extraordinary powers which we have delegated to you, we are sensible of the zeal and activity you have already displayed, and you may be assured of receiving from us, and from the Superior Administration of this Country in every stage of the business that co-operative support in the most liberal and useful extent which you solicit in your Letter of the 25th March 1785.

3. We have entered into an examination of our extensive Records on the subject of the Revenues of Bengal, from a wish to adopt some permanent system, compatible with the nature of our Government, the actual situation of the Company and the ease of the Inhabitants. We have likewise paid particular attention to your Revenue Letter of August 1st 1785 which with the papers accompanying it presents much important matter for our Consideration.

4. We shall decline to make much animadversion upon the occurrence of the preceeding years; as the measures you are taking to Annual superfluous Offices, and restrain the Channels of all contingent expences, renders such reference unnecessary, but shall proceed with incidental remarks upon the plan formed by our Governor General and Council in the year 1781—which has never yet received any regular discussion from us, to lay down such rules and principles as may in our opinion best conduce to the Establishment of general System, and to satisfy the expectations of the Legislature.

5. In this consideration we mean likewise to include the administration of Justice incident to the Dewanny of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, as necessary to the maintenance of that authority by which our Territorial Possessions must be governed.

6. The nature of our dominion in India renders it expedient, that our Revenue System should be simple in its principle and uniform in its operation, and the embarrassed State of our Affairs demands from us and our Servants every practicable attention to frugality, on reviewing the conduct of our Revenue Department for some years back, we have observed a disposition to innovation and experiment without urgent necessity or apparent cause, but with many obvious and immediate inconveniences, new institutions and almost instant deviations from them, multiplication of Offices and increase of Salaries.

7. Such frequent changes must necessarily be productive of disquiet to the Inhabitants of any Country; still more to an indolent and submissive people like the Natives of Bengal. They must be destructive of good Government there, whilst they throw over the whole business of our Revenues, and all the Official Records, a Cloud

of intricacy, and Confusion which almost defeats controul, and enquiries on our part. We find them always introduced with the flattering Schemes of increase to the Revenue, and diminution of Expence, which have hardly in any instance been realized by the event.

8. We shall now revert no farther to the abolition of the Provincial Councils, than to observe that it was not done in consequence of our Orders, or any previous approbation obtained from us; without which it is our positive direction that no essential change of System be ever made and in Cases, where you may see strong reason for introducing a change we expect that you shall submit to us, the grounds of your opinion, and the outlines of the Plan you wish to substitute, so that we may be enabled to exercise our own Judgement upon the Comparative advantages, and send you our definitive Orders.

9. But upon the whole, we are convinced, that a steady adherence to almost any one System, attended with a watchful superintendence and controul on the part of you our Principal Servants, to enforce the just and vigorous execution of it, and obviate defects as they may arise, is preferable to frequent changes however attended with expectations of improvements.

10. Upon this Occasion we concur in the just reasoning and prudential suggestions of Mr. McPherson upon the introduction of Mr. Stuarts Plan, that the advantages of any change of System should be *certain, great and demonstrable*, and should not be attempted, but "with the previous sanction and full approbation of that power, which alone can give it permanency". At the same time we are far from meaning to discourage the members of our Councils from recording their Sentiments upon any branch of our Affairs, as we consider this to be an essential part of their duty, and shall always pay every possible attention to the lights which may be derived from their Local observations and enquiries.

11. Any Plan which shall be suggested to us for reducing the enormous and burthensome expense of our Revenue Establishment, would come before us, with at least one Commendable excellence. As to arbitrary increases of the Jummah, we think less credit is due to them, as experience has convinced us that they have generally depended upon the discretion or Caprice of the Servants of Government, or the timidity and submission of the Zemindars, and farmers, and that ultimately they prove fallacious.

12. An early examination of your plan of 1781, led us to apprehend that [it] would fail of the merit it assumed in the article of Economy. It is now needless to state at large the grounds of that opinion, as we observe that Mr. Macpherson admits in his Minute confirmed by the Account which accompanied it, that the article of "Charges of Collection has been greater since the institution of the Committee than it was formerly."

13. Upon the whole of our enquiry it appears that the Annual expenses of collecting our Revenues and Commissions charged upon them, have been in a progressive state of Augmentation from the Year 1766/7 and that in the year 1781/2, after admitting a Credit of

Two Hundred Thirty four Thousand Pounds (£234,000) for the profits on Salt, they exceeded the last and heaviest year of the Provincial Councils in upwards of Fifty Thousand Pounds (£50,000). In the year 1783 they stood at more than double what they were in 1766, and the net Revenue we derived from our Territorial acquisitions in Bengal, was about One Million Sterling less, than it was the first year after our accession to the Dewanny.

14. We state these facts in order to guard you against the general tendency of every Government, and every system, to enlarge the bounds of its expense, and to animate your exertions in the work you have so judiciously begun, for reducing our Revenue Establishment to a moderate, and as much as possible an invariable Standard.

15. These Considerations might justify us in reverting to the mode which prevailed in the first years after our possession of the Dewanny, if in settling our future System we were to be guided solely by the principles of Oeconomy. But we are of opinion that it might in the present state of things produce mischievous effects, if we were to withdraw entirely our Servants from the Districts, as is declared to be the ultimate intention of your plan of 1781. In this principle we are confirmed by the very judicious reflections of Mr. Shore, which we have perused with much attention, and satisfaction. We observe also that Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Stuart who write under the impression of present circumstances, as well as Mr. Francis, who entered into a very wide and able discussion of this subject in January 1776. All Coincide in the expediency of Stationing our Servants in the Districts under the Title of Collectors, Supervisors, or Superintendants.

16. It has occurred to our own observation likewise, that there are many services, in which the firmness and vigour of the European character may be usefully employed, to support the Sovereignty of the British Nation, and strengthen the executive Government to facilitate the access to justice, to protect the manufacturers, to encourage a free Trade with the neighbouring states or provinces, to superintend the conduct of every Provincial Department, to keep a watchful Eye over the principal Natives, or guard against the intrigues of Foreigners.

17. As to the Idea thrown out by Mr. Macpherson of Carrying on the whole Collections of the Districts without any intervention of Native Agents; we apprehend that it would in many cases not be practicable, and in general by no means eligible in point of policy. At the same time where the talents of the respectable natives can be with propriety, and safety employed in the management of the Country, we think it both just, and politic to carry that principle into effect.

18. We do not mean to imply any censure upon our Servants who have been employed in the Districts. On the contrary, we are sensible that many of them have acquired honour to themselves and their Employers, by the Abilities they have displayed, and the uprightness of their Administration. At the same time we do not hesitate to

declare as a leading feature of our future system, that the multiplication of British Subjects in the interior Districts, or in the subordinate Detail of Indian Officers, is not necessary to good Government nor productive of any benefit to the Company adequate to the vast expense attending it.

19. We conceive also that the Natives in general are most competent to the duties of details in that Climate and in fact have always conducted the laborious parts of them. Upon these considerations we disapprove the Salaries you have allowed to Covenanted Servants in the Offices of Mazooly Dufter, Inevstigator or Ameen General, Zemin-darry Dufter, Canongooy Dufter, and Bazee Zemeen Dufter, which are only subsidiary Branches of the Khalsah or other principal Cutcherries, and should be under the Control of the person who presides in each respectively.

20. However as it has been represented to us, that considerable benefit has arisen from the Mazooly Dufter, and that it may be useful for some time longer in the adjustment of Old Accounts both before and after the new Settlement shall take place; We leave it to your Judgement to continue it as long as you may think it really necessary for the public service.

21. We pass over a variety of other Offices newly created, and additional Salaries granted by you, without authority from us, or any apparent necessity; as we trust our sentiments upon this subject are sufficiently known to you to prevent all such proceedings for the time to come; and that in conformity to our present Orders and those under date the 11th April 1785 you will zealously co-operate with us in abolishing unnecessary Offices, as well as in reducing those which are necessary within the narrowest bounds of rational Economy.

22. We shall now convey to you our Instructions on the subject of the Revenues of Bengal and Bihar, and the Balances incurred upon them, on the amount and formation of a future Jummah, and the mode of Collecting it.

23. We have already intimated our Opinion that Arbitrary increases prove generally fallacious. We shall now add, that the disappointment to us is not the only evil. The Country is drained by Farmers, or by the Tehsildars, Sezawels, and Ameens of Government none of whom have any permanent Interest in its prosperity; the Zemindars are discontented; many of them deprived of their Lands overwhelmed by Debts, or reduced to beggary; the attention of the Officers of Revenue is bewildered in the development of obscure Accounts; a door is opened for corruption and Chicane and in the end, the justice of Government is driven to the necessity of granting Remissions to repair the wrongs its own rapacity had created; which gives the people fair reason to conclude that there is no steadiness in our Government.

24. These observations are proved by the voluminous proceedings of all our Revenue Boards and by the incredible amount of remissions and Balances which stand upon our Records. Those for the five years settlement formed by the Committee of Circuit with the flattering

prospect of an increasing Jummah amount to upwards of a hundred Lacks (100,00,000) of Sicca Rupees and we find that of late Years the deficiencies of each Year have been greater than was formerly the case which we attribute more to the arbitrary increases of the Jummah, and the unsteadiness of our system, than to any want of exertion or Ability in our Servants.

25. We believe experience proves that Arrears of Revenue remaining unpaid at the close of any principal Kist, and especially at the close of the year, are seldom recovered from the Ryots, but by an encroachment upon the produce of their ensuing harvest, and the endeavours of a going off Tenant, or Aumils to reduce his own balance such anticipation, have at all times been matter of complaint to the existing Government. We draw our remarks rather from the Payments made by the actual Cultivator of the Land, than from those made at the Head Cutcherry, because we are sensible, that if the Sudder Kistbundy is not formed in Correspondence with that of the Mofussel, any occasional excess of the current Kist may be thrown into the account of former Balance although actually paid in the District from the resources of the present Year.

26. We cannot think that the highest actual Collections made in any one Year from 1178 to 1187 Bengal Year which the Committee of Revenue took as their ground work for the first settlement made by them, was a very equitable Standard to adopt. We think an average resulting from the actual Collection made in that period of ten Years, might have furnished a more reasonable hope of having your settlement realized. However, it was eligible to adopt that or any other Standard so as to accomplish some valuation of the assessment "without entering into a minute examination, or new local investigation."

27. But we do not see the reason of your Orders of the 30th of March 1781 then adopted as a general principle, and mentioned again in the 4th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter of August 1st 1785 as a fundamental Rule against allowing the Collector, or executive Officer of Government to have any concern in the formation of the Settlement, which is to be collected by himself. We should hold a Collector to be totally unworthy of his Appointment, if he could not be so far trusted where any delegation of power becomes necessary in a District; and we think the settlements which have turned out most defective have been such as were not formed by the Collector.

.

28. We observe with much concern that the Balances of the Bengal Year 1187-88-89 and 90 remaining uncollected in May 1785, which period was within the management of the Committee of Revenue, amounted to the very large sum of seventy one Lacks of Sicca Rupees (71,00,000). We rely upon your utmost exertions as far as may be consistent with prudence and justice to reduce this Balance; and we are much satisfied with the hopes you give us in the 26th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter of the 1st of August 1785, that the deficiency of the Bengal Year 1181 will be inconsiderable.

29. It is highly desirable to establish a Revenue, that may not be subject to these great Annual defalcations. We are sensible of the Zeal of our servants in endeavouring at various times since we have possessed the Dewanny to effect an Augmentation of our Land Revenue. At the same time it would be bad policy in us to swell that Article beyond its just and reasonable Bounds. It is entirely our wish that the Natives may be encouraged to pursue the occupations of Trade and Agriculture, by the secure enjoyment of the profits of their Industry, that the Zemindars and Ryots may not be harrassed by increasing Debts, either public or private, occasioned by the increased demands of Government and that our Annual Accounts may cease to exhibit a great irrecoverable deficiency.

30. The Idea of charging a Zemindar, who falls in Arrear, with an additional Assessment of one or two P. Cent appears to us altogether nugatory. Nor should we have any better expectations from the Plan proposed by you, and stated in your Revenue Letter of 28th October 1783 Par 17 and 18 of appointing a subordinate Department for the purpose of collecting Balances only. If armed with Powers to enforce collection, such a system must unavoidably create a divided and clashing Authority, prejudicial to the Current Revenue, and without them must be inefficient.

31. We consider the Punctual support of the Collections as depending more upon, and only to be ensured by the active exertions and honest Zeal of our Servants employed in the Revenue Department, and the permanent settlement of reasonable and fair Revenue for the due payment of which the hereditary tenure of the possessor is the best, and in general the only necessary security.

33. The power of depriving a Man of his hereditary Property is in the rigour of Mr. Stuart's proposal "to invest the Superintendent with a discretionary power of putting up to Publick Sale a portion of Zemindar's Lands in a certain number of days (for instance ten) after failure in the payment of any Kist."

33. The power of depriving a Man of his hereditary Property is no light concern nor ought it to be trusted to the discretion of any subordinate and merely executive Officers. Besides if the Policy of all Nations has circumscribed within cautious limits the transfer all landed property it is far more necessary to do so in Bengal where so large a proportion of the Land rents has always appertained to the Sovereign and where under the most liberal construction of a Zemindarry Title no alienation could be valid unless it were recognised and ratified by a new Grant of the Sovereign or his Viceroy.

34. The forfeiture of a Zemindarry ought never to take place without the previous sanction of the Superior Council and we hope that after the proposed Settlement of fixed and moderate revenue it will seldom or ever be necessary to proceed to this extremity. We think if possible, no plea should be left for abatements and remissions. But we are also sensible that cases may occur where a Zemindar has actually fallen in Arrears from some peculiar calamity of a local nature and that it may then be adviseable to grant him a

temporary respite of a portion of his fixed revenue instead of compelling him to complete his engagements by money borrowed at a heavy Interest.

35. We decline entering into any Instructions of detail as to the means of enforcing the Payment of our Revenues, or Balances. We trust to our servants to employ such modes of coercion as are conformable to precedent and usage but avoiding and discouraging throughout our Provinces every Species of cruelty however authorized by the former Practice of the Country Government.

36. Several of the rules and arrangements proposed by the Committee for the Settlement of Bengal Year 1188 and which have been continued with little variation in the succeeding Year appear to be judicious. We have also carefully perused your Consultations of April 14th and May 17th 1784 and those of the subsequent days which related to the settlement of Bengal Year 1191 received by the Surprise Packet Upon which it is sufficient to say that we approve in general the Principles laid down by the Committee of Revenue in their Letter of 12th April 1784 and are much satisfied to see your scrupulous observance and execution of the Orders you had received from the Court of Directors.

37. Your Instructions to the Committee to afford every relief and assistance to the Ryots and Zemindars consistent with the ancient Constitution of the Country are perfectly satisfactory to us. We are not equally convinced of the propriety of the Orders you gave that they should encourage the Zemindars to pay their revenue immediately at the Khalsa. This indulgence as it seems to be considered is liable to some weighty objections. It diminishes the necessary control of the Collector, enables the Zemindars to procrastinate their Payments and obliges them to station Agents at the Presidency who employ themselves in Intrigues equally detrimental to their Principals and vexatious to Government. And we see no advantage in it, but the saving that may accrue to us of the expense of conveying the treasure from the Districts to Calcutta.

38. For these reasons although we do not absolutely prohibit this code we are not inclined to encourage it and if in any case it should be admitted it ought to be accompanied with a declaration that it is not intended to carry with it any exemption from the regular Authority either judicial or general of the superior or Provincial administration and abuse which often attended the practice of Hazoor Tehseel under the Country Government. No personal Interest should exist in the Members of the Committee of Revenue or Officers of the Khalsah to induce Zemindars to pay ~~there~~ rather than in the Districts and we therefore direct that no greater Commission be charged upon one than upon the other.

39. In ordering the Settlement to be made *in every practicable instance* with the Zemindar we conceive that we adopt the true spirit of the 39th Section of the Act of 24th George 3rd. Various objections may be against a Zemindar which will absolutely be a deviation from the general rule in their favour such as incapacity from age sex or

Lunacy contumacy or notorious profligacy of Character. In such Instances a discreet and reputable relation by way of Guardian or Dewan is to be preferred before any temporary Farmer or Servant of Government. But we know that there are great difficulties in this matter and that cases may occur in which the Selling the Lands to a armer is the only means of securing the Revenues of Government and preserving the Inheritance of the Zemindar inviolate.

40. The Committee of Revenue acted perfectly right in stating to you before they proceed to the settlement of Bengal Year 1192 their queries entered in your Revenue Consultations of 6th June 1785 and we are satisfied with the construction of the statute which you gave them for their guidance.

41. We apprehend the design of the Legislature was merely to declare general Principles for the regulation of our conduct towards the Natives not to introduce any novel system or to destroy those rules and maxims which prevailed in the well regulated Periods of the Native Princes. An Adherence to these must be most satisfactory to the Natives and most conducive to the security of our Dominion.

42. In our system however there will be this difference and advantage that every deviation from an established usage or principle is to be made an Article of record with the justification arising from the necessity of the occasion.

43. Neither in vindicating the rights of the Zemindars could the Legislature mean to enable them to assume any independence upon our Government. The History of every Province in India shews that a Confederacy of the Zemindars is attended with dangerous Effects. You must therefore be always on your guard against any intrigues they might form or any symptoms of disaffection towards this Country.

44. The next points to be considered are the Amount of the Jummah and its duration. The former must depend upon many circumstances which do not fall within our knowledge. In this Article therefore We shall only attempt to trace the Outlines leaving it to you who are upon the spot with every necessary source of information within your reach to supply the detail; As it may be presumed that under the various plans which have been pursued since the year 1765 to ascertain the condition and just resources of the Districts, much cannot still remain unexplored; and that local scrutinies are open to numberless objections we have taken under our view averages of the actual produce of the Collections in various periods compared with the annual Jummah.

45. We observe that the highest Jummah from the Bengal Year 1179 to Bengal Year 1190 (or from 1772/3 to 1783/4) a period of twelve Years subsequent to the Famine, is according to the account which accompanied your General Letter of 22nd December 1781 Sicca Rs. Two Crore Eighty five Lack, ninety eight thousand, four hundred & fifty six (285,98,456) or according to the abstract annexed

to Mr. Macphersons Minute of May 18th 1785 Sicca rupees two Crore, Eighty Lack twenty five thousand four hundred & sixty five (2,80,25,465) and the lowest Jumma by the same abstract is :

	2,52,60,664
Medium of two extremes Sicca Rs.	5,32,86,129
	2,66,43,064

The averages drawn from the actual Collections of twelve years are as follows :

Of 12 Yrs	Sicca Rs.	2,52,51,848
Of 9 Yrs to 1780-1	Sicca Rs.	2,50,41,793
Of 6 Yrs to 1777-8	Sicca Rs.	2,52,06,525
Of 6 Yrs to 1783-4	Sicca Rs.	2,52,97,171
Of 3 Yrs to 1783-4	Sicca Rs.	2,58,15,347
Of 3 Yrs (Bengal Yrs. 1180—1 & 2 or n 1773-4 to 1775-6		2,53,58,603

which is the period proposed as a Standard by Mr. Stuart :

46. Mr. Stuart however after speaking generally throughout his *Plan* of the average of the actual Collections as the Basis of a future Jummah; says towards the end that "the Medium Jummah alluded to is Sicca Rupees two Crore Sixty seven Lack, Eighty two thousand four Hundred and fifty eight (2,67,82,458). If he means that this is the average of the actual Collections of the three Years, his Statement is erroneous. If he means to state the medium Jummah of those Three Years in the strict and technical sense of the Term, which however our Calculations makes to be Sicca Rs. two Crore sixty Eight Lack, ninety one thousand two hundred and seventy two (2,68,91,272), and to propose that as the basis of a future Settlement, then it appears to our apprehension, that his arguments and his conclusion are at variance with one another.

47. We conclude that in forming an estimate founded upon an average of Years, Mr. Stuart must have means to include the whole Collections made either under the name of Current Revenue, or Balances, altho' he does not expressly say so, otherwise a Jummah to be regulated by the Average Collections of Bengal Year 1180, 1181 & 1182 for Current Revenue only would be but Sicca Rupees two Crore, thirty seven Lack seventy seven Thousand one Hundred & two (2,37,77,102) which is Sicca Rupees fourteen Lack (14,00,000) less than the lowest Jummah of Twelve years, from thirteen Lack (13,00,000) to Twenty one Lack (21,00,000) less than the actual Gross Collections of the several averages stated in the preceding Paragraph, —and Sicca rupees thirty nine Lack (39,00,000) less than the medium Jumma of the five years preceding the time when Mr. Stuart laid his plan before the Governor General & Council.

48. We cannot help presuming that this was not Mr. Stuart's meaning; because if such a diminution were necessary we should have expected a very particular discussion of the causes and arguments of a very cogent nature to justify its expediency.

49. It appears to us upon this review of the subject that a Jumma of Sicca rupees two Crore sixty Lack (2,60,000) altho' not equal to the highest Collections of any year would exceed the average of the actual Gross Collection of the twelve Years. We shall not venture in such an important measure to limit your discretion by fixing any precise amount for the future Jumma of our Territorial possessions. But shall conclude by saying that a moderate Jumma if regularly and punctually collected unite the consideration of our Interest, with the happiness of the natives and Security of the Landholders, more rationally than any imperfect Collection of an exaggerated Jumma to be enforced with severity and Vexation.

50. In taking the averages which have entered into the foregoing discussion, we have adhered throughout to the abstract accounts of twelve years, authenticated by our Accountant General 18th May 1785, but are sorry to be obliged to remark, that it by no means corresponds with the accounts of different years preserved in other parts of our Records, we have already noticed one or two instances, and for a further example, we shall take the Bengal Year 1187. The Jumma of that year is stated in the abstract above alluded to, at Sicca Rupees, two Crore, fifty five Lacs, twelve thousand eighty (Sa. Rs. 2,55,12,080). in an account signed by Mr. Shore, and annexed to Mr. Hasting's Minute of the 20th December 1782 at Sicca Rupees two Crore fifty Seven Lacs five thousand eight hundred and four (Sa. Rs. 2,57,05,804), In the Account which accompanied your General Letter of 22nd December 1781 at Siccha Rs. two Crore fifty nine Lacs, seventy one thousand, six hundred sixty nine (Sa. Rs. 2,59,71,669). This irregular appearance is extremely improper, and we desire that great care may be taken in the offices to prevent such a want of uniformity in our Accounts.

51. We speak next as to the duration, we are not insensible that the mode of making settlements to continue only from year to year, has in many points of view been impolitic, & prejudicial, for this we impute no blame to our Governor General & Council, as your Sentiments on this subject were very wisely & fairly stated to us in the 22nd Paragraph of your General Letter dated 10th Jan'y 1780. But as the Subject has now undergone so complete an investigation, we trust that steady system of Conduct will now be adhered to, both at home and abroad.

52. It is therefore our intention that the Jumma now to be formed shall as soon as it can have received our approval and Ratification, be considered as the permanent and unalterable Revenue of our Territorial Possessions in Bengal, so that no Discretion may be exercised by our Servants abroad in any case, and not even by us, unless in some urgent and peculiar case, of introducing any alteration whatsoever.

53. We observe that your Settlements of the Bengal Years 1190, 91 & 92 have been declared to be made for one Year only; but with an assurance, that the same should be continued with such Zemindars as were punctual in the Payment of their stipulated Rent. In this you

have conformed to our Instructions; and the Condition you have annexed, was judicious. We hope therefore that those agreements may be maintained in a considerable Part of our Districts, so as to form the ground work of the future settlement.

54. For carrying our intended Plan into complete effect, we authorize you forthwith to enter upon the measures you shall deem most expedient, the same not being incompatible with the Sentiments and Principles we have laid down in this Letter for fixing a permanent Jumma subject however to our Revisal and Ratification for the several Districts and Zemindaries within our Jurisdiction in the Provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa; free from any Scheme of Russud, or increasing Rent, that mode having proved fallacious to the Company, and ruinous to the Country.

55. We deem it expedient to say in this Place, that your Desire of settling "a fixed Revenue (with the Zemindars) during the Lives of the actual incumbents" does not coincide with our Ideas. In the first Place, it would be converting into a more personal Convention and temporary Bargain, the Tribute, Tax or Quit Rent, of the Sovereign; which ought to be considered as chargeable upon the Land, let the immediate Possessor of that Land be who it may; and secondly, it would leave our Land Revenue open to perpetual fluctuation, with every inconvenience of Balances, accusations of former Neglect, local Enquiries, and personal Claims, Solicitations and Distinctions; to every one of which we are most decidedly averse. To the adoption of this measure in the large United Zemindaries, perhaps the same Objections may not lie with equal force.

56. The new assessment should be distinguished by the Title of Kerah Jummah, or some other term, that may imply Stability, as it is to be feared that the frequency of Change has created such Distrust in the minds of the People as to render the Idea [sic] of some definite Term more pleasing to them, than a dubious Perpetuity and as we do at the same time upon a full Consideration of the subject, see other reasons for preferring a given Term of years at Present, we therefore direct that you form the assessment for a Period of ten years certain.

57. When this arrangement is completed, the whole must be transmitted to us, accompanied by every necessary Documents & Illustration, which can enable us to form a conclusive and satisfactory Opinion so as to preclude the necessity of further Reference, or future Change.

58. The Tribute of each Zemindarry being thus ascertained, the Proprietor must be left in the undisturbed administration and Enjoyment of his Estate; and have the strongest assurances, that, as long as he pays his stipulated Revenue he shall be subject to no local Scrutinies or Interposes of the Officers of Government, unless where a regular judicial Process may become necessary to adjust disputed Claims between him & his Tenants, or Tulookdars, or between Coparceners of the same Zemindarry.

59. The situation of a Zemindar, whether considered under the Tenor of the ancient Sunnud of investiture, which was granted by

the Imperial Authority delegated to the Subahdar & Dewan of the Province, & which in course of Time may have become hereditary or as the acknowledged Proprietor in fee of an extensive District, naturally carries with it great Power & Influence & it is reasonable, that the Inhabitants should look up to him for Protection & Justice. Moreover as he was under the Constitution of the Mogul Empire, accountable for Public Robberies, & even for the good Behaviour of every Individual who resided three days in one of his Villages a considerable degree of Jurisdiction, is certainly inherent in that Responsibility; altho' it might be difficult to define its Operation by the Juridical Disinction of European Courts and Processes.

60. But our late Govr. Genl. Mr. Hastings has confidently declared upon our Records "that by the Constitution of Bengal, the Zemindar neither presided in the Criminal Court of his District, nor pronounced nor executed Sentences on all Offences less than Capital" our own Enquiries lead us to the same Opinion, & we must confess, altho' the Judicial Powers of a Zemindar may, under some limitation be productive of many salutary Effects, we should hold it foreign from good Policy, to grant to him, as a Condition of his Compact with Government any Jurisdiction that should be exclusive of the Civil or Criminal authority of the Nazim or of the East India Company acting as Dewan under the Firman of the Mogul.

61. The Condition of the various descriptions of Landholders throughout our Provinces has been brought under the Consideration of Parliament, in a manner that has produced much reproach against the British Government in India: and every Plan which has been proposed, has been directed to this object, as one which called urgently for the interposition of the Legislature, although in the result, a considerable degree of Latitude is left to us as to the mode of effectuating the redress of those grievances, stated to exist, you will perceive that by the 39th section of the Act passed in the Year 1784, we are explicitly commanded, forthwith to enquire into the Causes, foundation and truth of such Complaints, and to send orders and instructions to our Governments in India for effectually redressing the same, in such manner as may be consistent with Justice, and the Laws and Customs of the Country.

62. We desire that you will consider this clause of the Act of Parliament, with a most minute and scrupulous attention; and take especial care, that all the measures adopted by you in the administration of our Revenues, may be consonant to the sense and spirit thereof. We entertain strong hopes on our part that the instructions we have already given, upon a general view of the subject, and founded upon such materials as we now possess, will essentially contribute to carry into effect the human intentions of the Legislature towards the Native Landholders.

63. But for our further satisfaction and guidance, we direct that you obtain from each District a particular account of all Zemindars, Talookdars, Jaghiredars or Native Landholders of any other title or description, who since our accession to the Dewanny, may have been

absolutely deprived, or shall for any temporary purpose stand dispossessed of their Lands, with the quantity of the Land, or the amount of its Jummah, the date and reason of the dispossession, and such other explanations as may seem necessary for enabling us to judge of any particulars case, or to answer future enquiries.

64. You will particularly report to us the Circumstances of any Zemindars, upon whom there is reason to believe, that the Rents or Tributes demanded are become grievous and oppressive, or contrary to the Customs and constitution of the ancient Mogul Government, and will describe to us such measures as you recommend for remedying the grievances you may find to exist in this respect.

65. But we do not apprehend it is the command or expectation of the Legislature, that we should renounce upon artificial pleas, which we know the Zemindars, are always disposed to advance, the fair Rent or tribute due to Government, nor is this a moment when the Company can consent to any diminution of the resources, which either necessity or Justice, shall not absolutely require. We hope that the aggregate of our Land Revenue will not hereafter fall short of the expectations we have expressed in a former part of this Letter.

66. Another essential object of the above recited Section is "to settle and establish upon principles of moderation and Justice, according to the Laws and Constitution of India the permanent Rules by which their Tributes, Rents and Services shall be in future rendered and paid to the said United Company by the said Rajahs, Zemindars, Polygars, Talookdars and other Native Landholders."

67. In this point of view we flatter ourselves that the mode we have directed you to pursue for the purpose of settling a permanent Revenue for each Zemindar, either for perpetuity or for a long term of years, and giving him the uninterrupted management of his District will prove extremely satisfactory to the Landholders in general; and far more so, than any new enquiries, into the value and produce of the Lands. At the same time we are desirous of ascertaining as correctly as the nature of the subject will admit, what where [sic] the real Jurisdictions Rights, and Privileges of Zemindars Talookdars and Jaghiredars, under the Constitutions or Customs of the Mohomedan or Hindoo Government, and what were the Tributes Rents and Services, which they were bound to render or perform to the Sovereign power; and in like manner those from the Talookdars, to the immediate liege Lord, the Zemindar; and by what rule or standard they were, or ought severally to be regulated.

68. This Object will be best attained by a set of queries drawn out by you accommodated to local Circumstances, and proposed to the most intelligent and experienced Natives, Hindoo or Mahomedan, either by yourselves or by our Servants stationed in different parts of our own provinces, or in any other parts of Hindostan, who will transmit the several answers to you with such further illustrations as they may derive from their own enquiries. Being upon this subject we cannot in justice to Mr Francis Gladwin omit the occasion of expressing our approbation of the laborious work he has undertaken

in translating from the Persian Language that very valuable compilation, entitled the institutes of Akbar, whose long and prosperous Reign over Hindostan is considered by the Natives as the grand Era of Civil Regulation, and we direct that you liberally afford Mr Gladwin every suitable assistance, encouragement and support.

69. We do not mean by any enquiries of this nature to protract or impede the Settlement we propose to form upon the principle of a general average of the Actual Gross Collections, but merely to collect and preserve, for the various occasions in which it may be expedient to recur to them, those principles and institutions under which our present Indian Territories formerly prospered, and which will become every day more equivocal and obscure.

70. Having described the form of a future settlement, we shall now direct in what manner it is to be collected. It is our intention that the immediate superintendancy of the Revenue Department shall continue to be vested in a Committee of Revenue to remain at the Presidency, according to the plan imparted to you in our separate Letter of 21st September 1785.

71. On reffering to the rules given for the proceedings of the Committee upon its first institution in 1781, we find one which has excited much animadversion. We mean that which tends to prevent the entering of dissent upon this Article we deem it necessary to remark, that although we are always sorry to see any Public Board waste its time in Personal disputation, we do not by any means wish to discourage the individual Members of this Committee from recording their own particular opinions upon the measure, which may be under consideration for it is principally from the written opinions of our servants that we must form our judgment of their Abilities and intentions. It is also for them to consider that such record becomes their only Justification when exceptionable resolutions are adopted by the majority.

72. To act under the immediate orders of the Committee of Revenue, in Revenue Matters and to correspond directly with you upon any subjects relating to the Administration of Justice, or the General Government of the Country we direct that a moderate number of our principal Convenanted Servants, distinguished for good Conduct and Abilities, and conversant in the Country Languages, be stationed in the districts assisted with Official Dewans upon the principal of the Regulations of 1773, to prevent any interference of private Banians.

73. These Collectorships are to be considered as a part of a permanent system, and we now empower you to form the arrangement (subject to our final approbation) under the general directions contained in this Letter, in such manner as you shall think best adopted to the Currency of the Collections, or the mutual convenience of Government and the Inhabitants.

74. We direct that no Collectorship be so small as 5,00 000 Sa. Rs. unless it be for a Frontier District, and peculiar circumstances to be stated by you on your proceedings, should render such a district Establishment expedient and necessary, moreover we reckon from

the best Ideas we can form at this distance, that there never will be occasion at any one time to let the fixed Collectorship or occasional deputations of our servants in the Districts, exceed the number of twenty or twenty five.

75. The Commission formerly allowed to the Members of the Revenue Committee was unreasonably high being adequate or nearly so, to the Salaries which the Legislature has allotted to the Members of our Council General; we think the allowances you have now proposed for the Members of the Committee and their principal Officers, and for the Collectors are very liberal. They are surely such as ought to bind them to an upright and diligent discharge of their duty in those important Stations.

76. The Emoluments proposed by Mr Stuart are greater than we can approve; however we adopt his Idea of Paying the Servants in the Collection of our Revenues partly by fixed Salary, and partly by a Commission on the Amount collected; and we are of Opinion that the latter should form the largest share of their Emolument we refer it to your Consideration, likewise how far his scheme of giving different Allowances to the Collector according to the standing he may have in our Service, may with due attention to the Degree of Labour and Responsibility belonging to different Collectorships be applicable to the Mode of Classes suggested to you in our separate Letter of Sept. 21st 1785, and since enforced by an Act of Parliament passed in the present Session.

77. By the Disposition we have directed for the Revenue Line, the Legislature and executive Departments will be separate from each other, and Superior Government will be relieved from the enormous load of business which attends the immediate Superintendency of the Collections. It will still be in their power to preserve a Watchful Authority over our Servants employed in this Line, so as to decide expeditiously upon all references of difficult or dubious questions, without drawing too much of their attention from the various other Important Branches of our affairs, arising out of the extensive system which now appertains to the Government General of India.

78. But we shall expect from our Governor General and Council a very regular attendance upon the Duties of the Sudder Dewanny Adaulet, so that speedy decisions [sic] may be formed upon all appeals from the Inferior Courts, and upon all Complaints of Offences, abuses and Extortions committed in the Collection of the revenues; for which purposes a Competent and indisputable Jurisdiction is given to them by the 21st and 22nd Sections of the Act 21st Geo: 3rd.—For we are Convinced that nothing will tend more to the correct administration of Justice amongst the natives, than an upright and vigilant Court of Appeals, which at a moderate expence to the Suitors, may decide expeditiously upon all Cases brought before them.

79. As the business of the Secretary to the Governor General and Council in their Revenue Department, will be far less considerable than it was formerly, when the whole detail of the Collection came under their Cognizance, we require that your future arrangement of

this office be formed upon more moderate Scale, and we apprehend the Duty of Register to the Court of Sudder Dewanny Adaulat which we Direct you not to Confer upon any other than a Covenanted Servant, might be performed by him.

80 We need not apprise you upon this occasion, that very strong Declarations were made in the House of Commons, that the last Settlement of five years was absolutely sold by our servants then employed in it. We entertain no Doubt, that the Conduct of our Governor General and Council will answer our present expectations, and we cannot but earnestly admonish you and enjoin your special attention, so to guard the powers it may be necessary for you to delegate, as shall prevent Corrupt practices dishonourable to our service.

81. This Caution is the more necessary on account of the small number of Covenanted servants to be hereafter Employed, and the extensive duties they will be invested with; which leads us to the last Branch of our Dewanny Government, the Civil administration of Justice amongst the Natives. We informed you in our Letter of September 21st 1785, that this Subject was then under our deliberation and we shall now Communicate to you the definitive opinion we have adopted.

82. In forming the outlines of our future plan we have given a most minute and serious Consideration to the various arguments which have been used, to determine this important Question how far is it eligible to concenter in the same hands, the executive and Judicial branches of Power, We have likewise endeavoured to obtain the best lights, which Actual experience can afford whether dissensions have prevailed most, when these powers have been United, or when they have been exercised independantly of each other.

83. We. have seen the striking want of Uniformity, which has of late pervaded every part of your revenue System. We have at the same time had under our view the various regulations formed at different Periods by our Administrations in Bengal, as founded upon the Case in order to prevent the Clashing of authorities, the Injury of the Revenue or the inconvenience of the Ryots.

84. This Inquiry has shewn us that almost every Individual throughout the Country is concerned in the farming or Cultivation of Land, and consequently implicated in the immediate demands of Government or those of the Zemindars insomuch, that in numberless instances Justice would be defeated, if the magistrates were withheld from the inspection of Revenue account which under the prevailing Customs and prejudices, could not be obtained, but by that Authority which Superintends the Collections and the General Administration of the District.

85. We decline entering farther into the Wide field of discussion, which this Subject would open to us, and shall only briefly state the Result. We are actuated, in all our Ideas concerning the preservation and Government of our Possessions in India by the necessity of accommodating our views and interests to the Subsisting manners and usages of the People; rather than by any abstract theory, drawn from other Countries. or applicable to a different State of things. We have

therefore upon a full view of the subject, adopted this conclusion that it will tend more to simplicity, Energy, Justice and Economy, to reinvest the provincial Chiefs or Collectors, with the Superintendancy of the Courts of Dewanny Adawlet.

86. We leave it open for your consideration whether it may be advisable to have separate Courts of Dewanny Adawlet, independant of any Collectorship, established in the 3 Capital Cities of Moorsheda-bad, Patna and Dacca, for the decision of Causes of a Civil Nature only, and to interfere in Revenue Causes, if you should be of Opinion, that such Establishments may contribute to the ease and convenience of the Inhabitants, we shall not disapprove them.

87. As the Collectors will in general have less to occupy them than formerly, in the minute detail of the Revenues; they will be able to devote a great share of attention to the Duties of the Dewanny Adawlet. The Collector should sit as Judge or Superintendant at least two days in the week; and may depute his chief Assistant to sit in the intermediate days, in order to decide Causes of smaller Amount, or expedite the less important business of the Court.

88. The Power of apprehending in criminal cases, which by the regulations of Justice is given to the Judges of Adawlet, will of course be transferred to the Collector in his Judicial capacity. But the power of Tryal and Punishment must on no account be exercised by any other than the established Officers of Mahomedan Judicature. If any recommendation from you might influence them to refrain from ordering Punishments of a cruel nature, without derogating from their authority, or impeaching their institution, the object would be worthy the humanity of a British Government.

89. Thus we have concluded the review we proposed to ourselves, upon a diligent perusal of all our Revenue Records for many years back in order to deduct and establish the true maxims of Policy upon which our Government in India should be formed, Having a perfect reliance upon your integrity and Zeal for our Service, we have contented ourselves with laying down general Principles, the application of which in the official arrangements of detail, we confide to your discretion; accompanied however with this positive injunction, that when that arrangement is accomplished and reported to us, with a complete and digested body of the concomitant Regulation for our consideration and approval, no alteration shall thenceforward be made in any part without our special orders previously obtained.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends,

W. Devaynes/Nath: Smith/Thos.  
Fitzhugh/Jno. Michie/John Mot-  
teux/John Manship/George Cum-  
ming/Hugh Inglis/Lionel Darell/  
Samuel Smith Jr/Thos. Par-  
ry/Abra'm Robarts/Thos. Cheap/  
Paul Le Mesurier/Jn. Townson/E.  
Boehm.

London  
the 12th April 1786.

[Endorsement] Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal No. 3.

## LETTER DATED 28 APRIL 1786

*Composition of the Supreme Council, Secret Committee of the Court and various other appointments—Lt. Col. Gabriel Harper, Resident at Oudh, praised.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para 1. Our last letters to you were dated the 12th instant, and transmitted by the Ships Lansdown and Ravensworth triplicate whereof are forwarded by the Swallow.

*Public Department*

2. In consequence of an Act passed in this Session of Parliament, copies of which are herewith transmitted for your information and guidance, we have appointed the Right Hon'ble Charles Earl Cornwallis to be Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Company's Forces in India, and John Macpherson and John Stables Esqrs. and the Honorable Charles Stuart to be the Supreme Council at Fort William in Bengal.

3. Herewith you will receive a Commission constituting and appointing the Governor General and Council at our Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

4. We also enclose copy of an Instrument revoking the Commission granted to Lieutenant General Robert Sloper as Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces in East Indies and appointing the Right Honorable Charles Earl Cornwallis to the said Office.

5. His Lordship takes passage on the Swallow, by which Ship we shall transmit you a list of his Suite.

6. We transmit in the Packet copy of a Commission constituting and appointing the President and Council at our Presidency of Fort St. George, also copy of a Commission constituting and appointing our President and Council of Bombay.

7. We likewise forward you copy of an Instrument revoking the Commission granted to Lieutenant General Sir John Dalling Bart as Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces on the Coast of Coromandel and copy of an Instrument revoking the Commission granted to Brigadier General Laurence Nilson as Commander in Chief of the Company's orces under the Presidency of Bombay.

8. We have permitted the Reverend Robartes Carr and the Reverend John Marshall to proceed to India, and direct that they succeed in the order above mentioned to the first vacancy of Chaplain at any of our Presidencies after the Reverend Mr. Owen who proceeded to Bengal last year. Mr. Carr has our leave to remain in England until next Season without prejudice to his said Succession.

9. The following persons have obtained our license to proceed to India as Free Mariners, Vizt.

Alexander Hume  
 James Taylor  
 James Mc. Taggart  
 Richard Marson  
 Edward Web  
 Charles Burlton

10. We have permitted Thomas Crotty to proceed to Bengal as a Shipwright in the Company's Employ and have agreed to provide him with a passage on the Swallow at the Company's expence.

11. We have appointed John Michie Esqr. our Chairman, John Motteux Esqr. our Deputy Chairman together with, George Cuming, Richard Hall, John Manship, John Roberts, Joseph Sporkes, John Smith and John Woodhouse Esquires to be the Committee of Secrecy for giving the necessary directions respecting the safety of the Company's Shipping; the Orders therefore of any three of the said Committee respecting the same must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

12. Having appointed John Michie Esqr. Chairman, John Motteux Esqr. Deputy Chairman and John Manship Esqr. during the present direction to be a Secret Committee agreeably to, and for the purpose stated in the Acts of the 24th and 26th of His present Majesty; we hereby direct that all orders and Instructions which you shall receive from our said Secret Committee be observed and obeyed with the same punctuality and exactness, as though they had been signed by thirteen or more Members of the Court of Directors conformably to the said Acts.

13. We hereby confirm your Appointment of the Reverend Henry John Pemberton, Chaplain at Bombay, and who accompanied the Detachment from that Presidency, to be Chaplain of the Garrison of Fort William, in the room of the Reverend Thomas Blanshard, removed to the Presidency, provided the same be not prejudicial to the interest and emolument of the other Clerical Gentlemen who were doing duty under your Presidency previous to Mr. Pemberton's arrival; it being our intention that the Chaplains shall succeed to the more lucrative Stations according to their standing.—But by yielding in this instance to your recommendation in favor of Mr. Pemberton, it is by no means our intention to establish a precedent for the removal of persons under any description from one Presidency to another. On the contrary we positively forbid any such practice in future.

14. In the list of Ships which arrived in the Ganges, under foreign Colours, in the course of the last year, transmitted by the Intelligence, you have omitted the Names of the Commanders, the times of their arrival, and Tonnage of the Ships. We therefore direct, that in your future list of Foreign Ships, these deficiencies be supplied.

15. We direct that you send by every Ship the Calcutta Gazette for our information, and a complete set by the last Ship of the Season.

*Secret Department*

16. We have perused the letter from Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Harper to the Governor General of the 25th October 1785, and it is

impossible for us not to express much satisfaction with his honorable and disinterested Conduct in so far as he renounces any emoluments which he conceives to be incompatible with the interest of his employers. But no part of his conduct is more pleasing to us, than his zealous endeavours to establish a thorough confidence betwixt the Vizier and our Government. His ready attention to the representation of the Minister on a point, where his own interest was so materially concerned, impresses us with very favorable Ideas, and we confidently hope, that having given such an example of disinterestedness himself, he will, in his station, exert his utmost influence to carry your plan of reform into complete execution. But we think it incumbent upon us to guard you against attributing too much merit to some of the suggestions contained in Colonel Harper's letter, we cannot believe that the Vizier in the present state of his Country can be disposed to make offers of Gratuitous assistance to the Company and it is our positive direction that on no pretence the Vizier or any other Power connected with us be induced to think that we wish either to exact or receive more from them than they are bound to pay by the stipulations of the Treaties subsisting between them and us.

*Military Department*

17. Being satisfied that the Pension you granted to the Widow of Mr. George Harrison late a Surgeon on your Military Establishment; as advised in the 47th Paragraph of your General letter dated 13th [1st] August 1785, was upon just ground; we have thought proper to confirm the same; she will therefore be entitled to receive from the Military Fund 2s/6d per day, but as the payment of the same in India, will militate against the 16th Regulation for transacting the business of the said Fund it will be necessary for Mrs. Harrison in conformity thereto to appoint some person in England her Attorney to receive the said Pension, and as the Pensioners are paid at Midsummer and at Christmas at the Company's Office in London only, she must regularly transmit Affidavits dated at, or after those respective periods, of her continuing the Widow of the beforementioned Mr. George Harrison.

18. The latest return of Military Stores, received from your Presidency is dated the 30th of April 1783 your quick Stocks containing only the amount in a single entry, and as in order to form a competent judgement the quantity of Military Stores that may be required to be kept up for the use and defence of our several Settlements, it is necessary that we should be furnished with accounts of the remains of such Stores to the latest date possible we direct that in future you transmit us particular returns thereof as well in the Magazines as on the Works made up half yearly, and to be sent home by the earliest conveyance.

*Commercial Department*

19. The account remains of Europe goods at your Presidency is inserted on your Commercial quick Stocks in one line only, but as it is requisite we should be furnished with the particulars of such remains to the latest date possible, in order to guide our Judgment in furnishing you with the necessary supplies, we direct that in future

you insert the same on the quick Stocks, specifying the particular assortments of the different Goods, both in quantity and Valuation.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

London  
the 28th April 1786.  
[Copy per Ravensworth].

Jno. Michie/John Motteux/John  
Manship/John Woodhouse/John  
Hunter/John Roberts/George Cum-  
ming/Thos. Cheap/Hugh Inglis/  
Joseph Sparkes/Jno. Townson/E.  
Boehm / Abram Roberts / Jacob  
Bosanquet / Chas. Mills / Thos.  
Parry/J. Smith/F. Baring/Saml.  
Smith Junr./John Travers.

[Endorsement] Company's General Letter to Bengal No. 1.

7

## LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1786

*Text of Act 24 Geo. III c. 16 forwarded to Calcutta.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

### Public Department

Herewith you will receive copies of an Act of Parliament just passed, to explain an Act passed in the 24th year of the Reign of his present Majesty entitled "an act for the better regulation and management of Affairs of the East India Company and of the British possessions in India, and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of Persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies."

We are

Your affectionate Friends

London  
the 3rd May 1786.  
[Copy per Swallow]

Jno. Michie/John Motteux/John  
Manship/John Roberts/ Jno.  
Woodhouse R. Hall/Thos Cheap/  
F. Baring/George Cuming/Abram  
Roberts/Joseph Sparkes/Tho.  
Parry/Jacob Bosanquet/John  
Travers/Chas. Mills/J. Smith.

[Endorsement] Company's Addl. Separate General Letter to Bengal.

## LETTER DATED 21 JULY 1786

*Order of precedence among civil and military servants—Benjamin Lacam's proposals regarding New Harbour—enquiry into finances of Nawab Mubarakud-Daulah of Murshidabad ordered—Indian princes to communicate only through the Company's government in India—special instructions regarding disbursement of secret service money—frauds in raw silk contracts—price structure in respect of raw silk.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. Our last Letters to you were transmitted by the Ship Swallow, which sailed from St. Helens on the 6th May.

2. We have since received the following Advices from your Presidency Vizt.

P. Rodney—

General Letter dated 31st December 1785.

Secret Letter dated 9th January 1786.

Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection dated 9th January 1786.

Letter in the Foreign Department dated 9th January 1786.

Revenue Letter dated 29th December 1785.

Letter from the Governor General dated 10th January 1786—  
Letters from the Board of Trade dated 15th and 31st December 1785. Letters from Lieutenant General Sloper dated 24th December 1785 and 10th January 1786.—

P. King George—

General Letter dated 24th January 1786.

Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection dated 27th January 1787. Letter from the Board of Trade dated 24th January 1786—Letter from Lieutenant General Sloper dated 28th January 1786.—

P. Francis—

Secret Letter dated 11th December 1785.

3. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our Orders and Directions on such parts thereof as may appear to demand our Attention.

*Public Department*

4. As the Establishment of the Packets belonging to the Company is attended with a very heavy expence it becomes an object

of consideration not to detain them at any of the Presidencies longer than is absolutely necessary, this observation is at this time particularly directed to the Intelligence Packet as she is now under Dispatch for your Presidency, and if it should be found necessary to return her to England, every Dispatch must be exerted for that purpose but, if on the contrary it should not be found expedient to employ her on such Service let her be immediately sold, or otherwise disposed of in such manner as may prove most beneficial to the Company but if continued in India cause her to be discontinued on the Establishment of a Packet.

5. When it is considered that the amount in Foreign silver carried out as a Stock by the Freight Shipped does not exceed the Value of £500 each, it must appear that the Advance to Captain Clifton of the Intelligence Packet at Bengal of 5,900 Current Rupees was infinitely beyond any expence which might be expected to accrue for so small a Vessel in the course of his Passage to England, and the event has proved the justness of this remark for on passing Captain Clifton's Disbursements, he is indebted to the Company a Balance of Sicca Rupees 3,895—12—1. As Captain Clifton would be a considerable Loser by the Exchange if his Accounts were reduced to Sterling. We have directed the Balance to be carried to the Debit of his account for the present intended Voyage and he carries out the amount in Coin of East Indies, this Sum we consider more than sufficient for the occasions of the Vessel, and therefore decline sending Dollars as usual for a Stock for the Voyage, and we hope the observation we now make will upon any future occasion prevent your ordering so large an advance under the like Circumstances to the Commanders of our Packets.

6. Herewith you will receive several Copies of an Act of Parliament lately passed entitled "An Act for the further Regulation of the Trial of Persons accused of certain offences committed in the East Indies; for repealing so much of an Act made in the Twenty fourth year of the Reign of His present Majesty, (intituled, "An Act for the better regulation and management of the Affairs of the East India Company and of the British Possessions in India, and for establishing a Court of Judicature for the more speedy and effectual Trial of Persons accused of Offences committed in the East Indies") as requires the Servants of the East India Company to deliver Inventories of their Estates and Effects; for rendering the Laws more effectual against Persons unlawfully resorting to the East Indies, and for the more easy proof in certain cases of Deeds and Writings executed in Great Britain or India" to which we require punctual obedience.

7. We also transmit you several Copies of an Act of Parliament entitled "An Act to enable the East India Company to raise Money by a Sale of Annuities and by encreasing their Capital Stock."

8. We have permitted Mr. John Neave to return to his rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency on board the Intelligence Packet.—

9. John Dennett has obtained our license to proceed to India under Free Mariners Indentures agreeable to our permission of last year.

10. Having taken into our consideration, in consequence of a reference from the Presidency of Bombay the rule of Precedency which ought to be observed whenever there may be occasion for our Civil and Military Servants to act together in a deliberative Capacity, for purposes not at present foreseen by us, or not described in our Letter of the 21st of September last—We hereby direct that the Senior Civil Servant whatever his Rank may be do always preside at such Meetings, whether the same be held at the Presidency or at the Subordinate Settlements, with respect to the rest, Members of Council must take rank of all Military Officers—a Senior Merchant of a Lieutenant Colonel—A Junior Merchant of a Major—a Factor of a Captain, and a Writer of a Subaltern—

11. We have laid own this rule more for the sake of preventing possible disputes, than from any Idea of the probability of there being occasion to advert thereto since the mode whereby every part of the Company's business is to be transacted is so clearly described in our beforementioned dispatches.

12. In answer to the request contained in the 24th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 15th March 1784—for our sentiments and instructions on your power to seize and send Home dismissed Servants, we need only refer you to the 35th Clause of an Act passed this Session of Parliament—Copies of which are enclosed.—

13. On examining the List of Maps, Plans &c. in Possession of your Secretary and Surveyor General transmitted by the Intelligence Packet, we perceive there are many written Papers, for Copying which there can be no obstruction from want of Draughtsmen. We, therefore, direct, that Copies of all such papers and Remarks, particularly the Reverend Mr. Smith's account of Collonel Upton's Embassy to Poonah<sup>1</sup>, be transmitted by the earliest opportunity.

14. We also direct that Copies of all the Maps and Plans be sent to England so soon as the same can be done, but that such are in the accompanying List\* be first sent, Oil Paper enables any Person to trace the outline of the most circumstantial Map, and an exact outline will satisfy us; and to prevent any obstruction to the ready execution of our wishes we have sent by this opportunity some more Oil Paper.

15. In our Letter of the 15th September last, relative to the liquidation of the Company's debts in India, we directed that a reasonable time not less than Six nor more than Eight Months from the receipt of that Letter, should be allowed to the Bondholders at the different Presidencies to signify their acquiescence in the terms proposed, but as we have been since informed that several

\*See Home Public Letters from Court, Vol. 28, 1785-87, pp. 1-2 and Vol. 34, 1788-89 pp. 89-90.

Persons now in England have not yet had an opportunity of instructing their Attornies abroad so as to be within the time prescribed, we hereby direct, that the term be extended to the 31st March 1787 taking care however that such Persons as may thus signify their acquiescence in consequence of this enlargement of the term, do not receive any superior advantage, either in point of Interest, or otherwise over such as acquiesced within the term formerly specified.

16. We shall expect punctually to hear from you by every opportunity of the Progress of this arrangement, and the effects it produces on the Credit of the Settlement under your administration.

17. We send you enclosed an Application from Mr. Benjamin Lacam, concerning New Harbour in the Bengal River, the state of his Claims, and the object of making a Dock or Docks at New Harbour; and direct, that you take the whole into your immediate consideration, and adopt measures as may appear most conducive to the Public good, and best calculated to put an end to all further disputes and altercations in his business.

18. Before we had determined to refer the whole matter to be decided upon the spot, we had it in contemplation to grant him a New Lease a Copy whereof is enclosed.—It is further necessary to inform you, that Mr. Lacam had agreed to accept the Lease, with such corrections alterations or additions as you might think proper to make therein, and to surrender his old Pattah in consideration of this New Lease.—But you are to observe, that these Papers are transmitted merely for your information.—We leave the matter entirely to your adjustment, in full confidence that your decision will be just and equitable.—If the Idea is at all to be adopted it may be matter worthy of consideration, how far it ought to be executed by ourselves or by an Individual, but if any consideration of political expediency should lead you to supersede the proposition of Mr. Lacam, you will pay a due attention to what justice to him may suggest. If you should consider this as a Work which ought to be executed by ourselves you will report to us your reasons together with an Estimate of the expense and Establishment and if either immediately or consequentially it should lead to a burthensome expence, the present embarrassment of our Affairs will undoubtedly form an essential part of your consideration, or, if upon full consideration of all the effects of such an Establishment, it should appear to you that it's completion may be dangerous to the Company's Possessions instead of adding to their security you will report to us your reasons for such opinion as well as what compensation you may think reasonable to be made to Mr. Lacam, for the disappointment of his prospects and the resignation of his present Claims.—

*Secret Department*

19. We have lately received a Letter from the Nabob Mobaréck ul Dowla, a Copy of which is enclosed, requesting an addition to

his Stipend—This Letter was delivered to us by Sir John D'oyley. By it's not having been conveyed to us through the usual Channel of the Governor General and Council, we are deprived of the benefit of your opinion to assist us, in our final determination thereon, and therefore can only for the present direct you to pay every favorable Attention to his representations, as we have reason to believe his disposition is pliable and his Attachment to our Interest steady—You will take care to provide for his support and dignity, either by efficacious checks which may secure to his Excellency the clear and undiminished receipt of the real stipend allotted to him, or by an economical arrangement of his Household, dependents and other expences or even by an immediate augmentation of his stipend having a due consideration of his real necessities, and at the same time an attention to the Embarrassment of our own Affairs.

20. You will represent to His Highness, that from a regard to the Amity and firm union which subsisted between his Father Meer Jaffier Ally Cawn, and the English Company, and the friendly dispositions which have happily subsisted with his several Successors in the Subadarry, and particularly the present Nabob Mubarak Ul Dowlah, We have the most sincere desire to contribute to his ease, honor and happiness; but, whilst we are actuated by these Sentiments of respect and friendship for his Excellency, we are obliged to regret that the Incumbrances left upon the Revenues of Bengal, by the great exertions we made to protect our own Possessions, and those of our Allies, must at present disable us from maintaining the dignity of the Subadar to the full extent of our wishes, and in a manner suitable to his high descent, and Situation.

21. In the conduct of this Business, you will adopt such measures as shall seem expedient, in order to examine into the real state of the Nabob's finances, and to ascertain with precision the Number and rank of the relations of the three former Nabobs who from the Custom of the Country look up to the present Nabob for their support.—It will at the same time be necessary to ascertain as accurately as possible the real expence of the Nabob's Household, and the exact amount to which these expences might with consistency be confined under proper regulation and without unnecessary Parade. The Report on this investigation you will communicate to us with your opinion thereon, that we may be enabled finally to determine on the nature and extent of the connection to be established, and maintained between us, and the Nabob of Bengal—You will always keep in view the Claims he has upon us by Treaty, and necessity will dictate to you a due consideration to the present State of our own Affairs.—

22. We observe from the 68 Paragraph of your Inspection Letter by the Rodney dated 9th January 1786 that you have made an alteration in the situation of the Resident at the Durbar, by substituting a Commission of 5 Per Cent, to be charged upon the Stipends paid through his Office, in lieu of all the Established Allowances heretofore drawn by the Resident.—We are sorry to

observe, in the Motive you assign for this arrangement, a doubt of your being able to reduce your Revenue Establishment within the Sum of 72 Lacks of Rupees.—Nor can we approve of so considerable a Charge being imposed upon the Nabob whilst he is representing the inadequacy of his stipend to his necessary expences, and to produce a Salary to an Office of small importance, greater than is enjoyed by Many of the most consequential Offices in our Service.—

23. Indeed we do not perceive any necessity for continuing one of our Covenanted Servants as Resident at the Nabob's Durbar, at least not with the distinct and expensive Establishment hitherto allotted to it, and if you should think it expedient to keep up an Office under that Name we apprehend it might very properly be united in the Person of the Collector of the Moorshedabad District; or in that of the Gentleman, who presides in the Dewanny Adawlut of Moorshedabad, in case you should have judged a Separate Adawlut for the City of Moorshedabad advisable in pursuance of the 86 Paragraph of our Revenue Letter of the 12th of April 1786. But as the Nabob must be certainly competent to the discreet direction of all those matters which can fall under his cognizance; and all the Departments of Government as well judicial as Revenue, are transferred to Calcutta there can be no proper functions for a Resident at the Durbar, as an Active Office.

24. You will observe that there are other points in the Nabob's Letter submitted to our consideration, particularly as to the re-establishment of his authority in the City of Moorshedabad, upon which we have to observe to you that no material objection occurs to us against allowing the Nabob to hold the exclusive administration of Criminal Justice according to the Mahomedan Laws over the Inhabitants of the City of Moorshedabad, subject to the General Regulations of Justice as established throughout the provinces. Moreover We consider it but as a suitable appendage of that Dignity which under all existing Circumstances of the British Possessions in India, it is just and politic to sustain in the Person of the Subadar of Bengal.

25. An Application has been made to us by Mr. Hastings in behalf of Munej Begum, the Widow of the late Meer Jaffier, a Copy of whose Letters we likewise enclose. It is our wish to alleviate, as far as the Circumstances of our Affairs will permit us the distresses of all the Relations of Meer Jaffier, and enable the present Nabob, and his family, under an economical System to be adjusted by you, to live comfortably and happy. But as the real situation of Munej Begum will of course be included in your enquiries, and in the Report upon the general Subject of the Nabob's family and expences, we shall forbear for the present to make any further observations thereon than to direct, that an Independant stipend be allotted for her support, subject, as in the other case to our future consideration, and approval.

26. We cannot conclude this subject without expressing our dissatisfaction at the mode adopted by several of the Princes of India, in corresponding with us in any other way than through the medium of the respective Governments and employing our Servants to be

their Agents in Great Britain. The Nabob of Oude, the Nabob of Bengal and the Rajah of Tanjore, have at this time Persons who call themselves Agents, Residents in London in the Persons of three of our own Servants Mr. Halhed for the first, Sir John D'Oyley for the Second and Mr. Ross for the Third.

27. You will take every opportunity of conveying to all the Princes of India the earnest wish we have so often repeated that their communications to us should be made only through the Channel of our regular Government in India, and that we can pay no regard to communications made in any other way—And we strictly prohibit our Servants from accepting any such Agency for the Princes of the Country, declaring at the same time that we shall consider it as a forfeiture of all future Claims to our favor.

28. We positively direct that you do on no account withhold from us, any Letters which any of those Princes shall think proper to write to us, and whatever Letters you may receive from them addressed to yourselves must be regularly entered in your Book of Country Correspondence, and transmitted to Europe by the first opportunity.

29. As by the 55 Paragraph of your Letter in the Foreign Department of the 25th October last you intimate a wish to be furnished with instructions to guide your Proceedings in case of the arrival in the Bengal River of Ships under the Colours of the United States of America, We can only observe that such Ships are to be treated in every respect like Ships of any other Foreign Nation, and Subject to the same rules and Regulations. But in cases where you may receive undoubted information that the American or any other Flag is merely made use of to cover British Property, and that the Ship is actually navigated by British Subjects, we conceive that the Law of the Land is sufficiently explicit already, and needs no further explanation. We have too much reason to believe that British Subjects are largely concerned in Ships which sail to India under the Colors of other Nations—It is matter of very serious consequence to the Company, and we shall shortly consider of the means to put a stop to a practice illegal in itself, and productive of the greatest detriment to our Commerce.

*Military Department*

30. The executors of the late Sir John Burgoyne Bart. have lately presented to us for acceptance a Certificate granted by the President and Council at Fort St. George for Pagodas (14,940) fourteen thousand nine hundred and forty being the amount of his Pay and allowances during the time he was under Arrest which by our Orders to that Presidency of the 10th December 1784 were to be allowed him in the event of his acquittal, and as the low state of the Treasury at that Presidency rendered it impossible to pay the amount in ready money they had been refunded to the necessity of granting him a Set of Certificates for the same and referred him to us for payment thereof.

31. It appears by your Consultations of the 15th September 1785 that Sir John Burgoyne under the apprehension that we should refer

him back to the Presidency of Fort St. George for payment of the said Certificate enclosed one of the Set in a Letter addressed to your Government, and drew a Bill upon you for the amount which in consideration of the reasons urged by him you accepted, and ordered to be paid when due, debiting the Presidency of Fort St. George for the same, although you had not received any advice from that Presidency of such Certificate having been granted, which circumstances has been communicated to us in a Letter from the Secretary there, and notwithstanding you seem to have been apprized that Sir John Burgoyne had been referred to us for payment of the amount due to him, yet no mention is made of this transaction in any of the Letters we have received from your Presidency.

32. Under the Circumstances above stated we have refused payment of the Certificate and returned it to the Executors accompanied by such Documents as evince that the amount has already been discharged in Bengal, but we cannot avoid remarking that your conduct upon this occasion has been extremely irregular.

1st. In accepting the Bill drawn on you by Sir John Burgoyne for the Amount of the Certificate granted him by the President and Council of Fort St. George, without any advice from them of their having granted such Certificate.

2dly. In accepting the said Bill under the knowledge that he had been referred to us for payment; and

3ly. In not advising us your having accepted the said Bill.

33. We were advised by your General Letter of the 31st December last Paras 51 and 52 of your having given Orders for the discharge of the Balance due to Colonel Macleod.

34. When we consider the Character of Colonel Macleod, and the great delicacy that must always attend any investigation into the expiendure of Secret Service Money in the course of Military operations, we are not disposed to make any observations upon the extent of the Sum claimed by Colonel Macleod, or upon the deficiency of Vouchers to support it; but as every other Branch of Military Expenditure is to undergo a very essential reform, we direct that you take the Article of Secret Service Money into your consideration, and frame such regulations as will have a tendency to check and controul this Article of Disbursement, and enable you to judge of the propriety and necessity of the several Items—which regulations must be communicated to, and adopted by our other Presidencies—For altho' we are fully sensible that the Public Service may be greatly forwarded by means of such an expenditure, yet we are at the same time aware, that without proper checks many abuses may creep in, and the amount thereof thus become enormous.

35. Having attentively perused the Plan proposed by Sir John Macpherson, and adopted by you for the liquidation of the Military Arrears at our several Presidencies, We highly approve of the same, and are persuaded that it will be productive of the happiest Effects. Indeed we have been advised from Fort St. George that the seasonable relief you afforded to that Presidency by the Francis and Admiral

Hughes, in order to enable that Government to carry this Plan into execution has already been followed by the most salutary consequences.

36. We were in hopes before this time that some Arrangement would have taken place relative to the respective Ranks of the Kings and Company's Officers, so as that neither Party would have reason to complain of irregular and unusual Promotions—But as no arrangement of this nature has yet taken place, and being desirous of bringing the matter to a conclusion, we hereby direct that Lord Cornwallis do take the subject into consideration, and transmit to us the result of his deliberations accompanied by such a Plan as in his Lordships estimation will put an end to all future animosities, that we may immediately submit the same to the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers.

37. We have directed Sir Archibald Campbell to communicate his Ideas upon the subject to Lord Cornwallis, in order to Assist his Lordship in the formation of the intended Regulations.

38. As you have omitted to send us the Proceedings of the Courts Martial held at your Presidency in 1779, we direct that they be transmitted by the earliest conveyance:—And as we have not received any to a later period than 1783, we also direct that you supply us with them from that time, and that in future they be sent home regularly at the end of every Year.

#### *Revenue Department*

39. We have attended to what you state in your Inspection Letter of the 9th January last relative to the Expence of manufacturing Salt Petre and Opium not being included in the 72 Lacks (Seventy two Lacks) to which we had limited the Charges of the Revenue Department—It is certainly our wish that the Charges in every branch of Revenue should be included in that Sum; but we omit giving any final opinion upon any separate point, till you have reported to us a complete state of your whole reductions and arrangements, in pursuance of our Orders of the 11th of April 1785. We highly approve the Spirit with which you have entered upon the business, and the progress you have made in it, and when the whole is reported to us as completed, we shall be happy to convey to you our final approbation, with such alterations and observations as may occur after examining the particulars of the detail you may lay before us.

40. In the Postscript of your Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 25th October last, you have requested our early opinion on the case of Mr. John Mackenzie, who on the abolition of the Board of Customs, was appointed to take charge of that Department; and who was afterwards removed therefrom in consequence of our Directions of the 11th April 1785, that the management of the Customs should in future be committed to the charge of the Committee of Revenue.

41. We have read the Letter from Mr. Mackenzie which accompanied your beforementioned advices, and the several accounts

therein enclosed and are highly sensible of his merits and Services whilst in the Management of that Department, and therefore approve your Resolution to appoint him to a Seat in the Committee of Revenue with a deliberative Voice thereat, but without Salary until a Vacancy shall occur when he is to supply it.

*Commercial Department*

42. Our General Letter of the 11th April 1785 conveyed at large our directions respecting the quantities and assortments of Raw Silk Suited to the demand of this Market to which in your future provisions of this article you will not fail to pay the strictest attention.

43. A further Sale of this Article will take place on the 18th July after which we shall take the first Opportunity of transmitting you such Observations and remarks as occur therein with the Selling prices in the same manner as has been practiced for some time past.

44. When we reflect upon the importance of this branch our Investment whether considered in a Political or Commercial point of View, we cannot too forcibly recommend it to your most serious attention. We are convinced that with judicious and faithful management instead of the heavy Sums we have been annually losing it might not only become a remittance the most beneficial to the interests of the Country, but even a profitable Article of Trade. It has come to our knowledge that in it's provision of late years the grossest frauds and impositions have been practiced upon us both as to it's quality and price. In September 1783 under suspicions of this Nature which we could not avoid entertaining as we found that notwithstanding the Cheapness of labour in Bengal the Cost of the Silk from thence exceeded the price of that imported from Italy, We directed our late Board of Trade to investigate the subject with accuracy and precision and to furnish us with the prices originally paid to the Natives for Cocoons and who were the first purchasers thereof together with an exact and circumstantial account of all charges Attending the Winding off the Silk. We were induced to call for this information well knowing that if it was honestly and faithfully supplied it would strike at the root of every imposition and enable us to adopt such measures as might prevent the like in future, and we confided in the Zeal, and integrity of our Servants, that as became their duty they would readily and cheerfully have co-operated with us in the attainment of so important and desirable an object. On receipt of these Instructions in March 1784 the Board of Trade record a Short Minute on their Consultations, that they will take the proper measures for obtaining the information so required, and in December 1784 after a period of eight Months a time more than sufficient for the most minute investigation to have taken place, even supposing them to have had no previous knowledge on the subject they inform us "that they apprehend our Orders must apply to the Cost of Silk prior to the Subscription Investment 1782/3 and is not directed to the reduction of price which then obtained, and is now established, nevertheless they should shortly present us with the result of the enquiries so directed to be instituted upon an Abstract

and general ground". Trifling and unsatisfactory as this appeared we nevertheless anxiously looked that every subsequent dispatch would bring the promised information, but although we are in possession of Advices dated so late as the 24th January 1786 a period of near two years after their receipt of our Instructions, they have not yet transmitted us a single line further on the Subject; fortunately however for the interests of the Company we have been able to obtain through another Channel, and that of the most unquestionable Authority that information which our Board of Trade have either neglected or appear to have been very unwilling to supply. We have not only fully and completely ascertained the first Cost of the Cocoons in the different Markets in all the various modes of purchase with the subsequent charges of winding them into Silk, but we have also been informed of the fraudulent and collusive manner in which the Contracts have been entered into between the Members of our Board of Trade, And the Original Contractors with the inferior prices at which in many instances those Contracts were afterwards executed by Agents and under Contractors. In short we have such strong reasons for believing that scandalous and corrupt practices have prevailed in the provisions of this branch of our Investment (and which also leads us to suspect the like in every other branch) that we are determined to obtain for ourselves the most ample redress by an appeal to the Laws of our Country in Order to bring the delinquents to that punishment which Offences of so atrocious a nature so loudly Call for. We have already filed Bills in equity against such of the Members of our late Board of Trade and of the Contractors as are now in England and we mean to pursue the like conduct in respect to all the other parties concerned therein.

45. Our Governor General the Right Hon'ble Earl Cornwallis is in possession of certain instructions from our Secret Committee on this subject to which we have no doubt he will pay every due attention and we conceive that both his Lordship as well as our Commercial Board under the new Institution will derive great assistance in their future transactions respecting this from the Services of a person of professional knowledge and sound integrity. We have it in intention to send out a person of this description by one of the early Ships of the Season but as in the interim it is material that you should be in possession of the following useful information which we have been able to obtain upon the subject We herewith transmit the same for your Notice and guidance.—

46. The Standard for regulating the price of Silk is the Cocoons, as they shall vary either in quality or price so more or less will the cost of the Silk be affected. Cocoons vary in their quality according to the different Bunds or Seasons in which they are produced. As we mean not to treat this subject Philosophically it is needless to point out the cause of such variation it is sufficient for our present purpose to state that those produced in the March and November Bunds are the choicest both for strength and beauty and also as yielding the greatest quantity of Silk : those of January and April are next to be preferred and lastly those of June and August. Cocoons also again differ in quality from the Various Situations at which they are

produced. Those of Rungpore are preferable to all others. Radnagore, Cossimbazar, Bauleah, Jungpore, and Commercolly follow in the Natural Order in which they are here placed.

47. The Cocoons are reared by a Set of People called Chassars, who rent Plantations of Mulberry Lands, for the purpose of their production. They are purchased of these People by another description of Men called Pykars who go round the Country collecting them and who we are sorry to be informed (and desire they may be properly punished when it shall be discovered to be the case) Sometimes use the most unjustifiable oppression in forcing from the Chassars the Cocoons at their own prices. The Pykars after putting a profit and we have no doubt a handsome one upto them Sell them to those engaged in the Silk Filatures by whom they are manufactured into Silk.

48. The Price of Cocoons may be affected from accidental causes such as a Scarcity of Crop &c but we understand it has not undergone any very essential alteration for some Years past. The mode of purchase is either by Weight or Tale in either of which cases the price turns out nearly the same. If bought by weight the price is at a certain rate P Maund reckonable from 40 to 45 Seer to the Maund as the buyer and Seller shall agree. It is not however unusual for the Pykar to buy by one Weight and Sell by another. The Current price of Cocoons in this mode we are informed has not exceeded for some Years from 10 to 12 Sicca Rupees P Maund. When bought by Tale it is accordingly to the following table.—

4 Cocoons are a Gundah

20 Gundahs or 80 Cocoons are a Pun

16 Puns or 1,280 —Do— are a Caund

The price of Cocoons reckoned upon an Average of the last eight years have turned 3 Caunds, 3 puns to the Sicca Rupee. A Maund or 40 Seer of Cocoons is found to yield  $2\frac{1}{4}$  Seers of Silk which reckoned at the highest rate of Cocoons,  $\text{Vi}_3$  12 Sa. Rs. P. Maund (tho' we are assured in some places they may be had as low as 9) will cost p Seer ..... 5.5.4.—

The Charges of winding a Seer of Silk are Wages for 2 days to a Spinner and Reeler at together 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rs. P. Month is	0 8 0
--	-------

Each Bason will require from $\frac{3}{4}$ to a Maund of Fine Wood which at Rs. 12/- p. 100 Maunds is about	0 4 0
---	-------

Cooly hire and incidental Charges will not exceed	0 2 0
---	-------

To P Seer of Silk Sa. Rs.	6 3 4
---------------------------	-------

16- $\frac{1}{2}$  Caunds of Cocoons are also found to give 1 Seer of Silk at which rate 37 Caunds and 2 Puns will yield 2- $\frac{1}{4}$  Seer of Silk  
Silk the Quantity produced from a Maund.

reckoned at the highest rate of Cocoons, viz. 12 S. Rs. P Maund

37 Caunds and 2 Puns reckoned at the price of 3 Caunds 3 Puns to a Rupee will Cost	Sa. Rs. ans. Pie 11 10 4
--	-----------------------------

Which is P Seer of Silk	5 2 10
-------------------------	--------

Charges od Winding as above	5	14	10
P Seer of Silk # . . .	6	14	10

49. The above Statements being the result of actual experiments made with great practical knowledge no doubt whatever remains on our minds as to their being Correct, and indeed they stand fully confirmed by a practice which we find to have obtained between some of the Silk Contractors and Pykars the latter of whom agree to furnish Cocoons on being paid for the quantity of Silk that shall be actually produced therefrom at the rate of from 5.4 to 5.8 Sa.Rs. P Seer the Manufacturer being at the Charges of winding.—

The Average Price in this mode is p Seer	Sa. Rs.	5	6	0
Charges of winding as before is p Seer .		5	14	0
		6	4	0

50. As we, are desirous of knowing the exact Number of Silk Filatures whatever Public or Private that are established in the various Silk Districts. We direct that an accurate account thereof may be stated and transmitted to us specifying each Filature, where situated; whose property, the Dimensions, the Number of Basons and ovens that are and can be worked therein and the quantity of Silk that in general is produced or is capable of being produced therefrom.

51. It having been represented to us the Services of the Italian Reelers are no longer necessary in Bengal as the Natives are now sufficiently instructed in the New mode of winding. We direct that such of them as now remain be discharged from the Company's Employ and have an option given them of being sent to England at the Company's Expence agreeable to their original contract, or of being at liberty to remain in the Country on the Condition that the Company shall be at no Charge whatever on their account.

52. Our Letters of the 12th July 1782, 11th April and 8th July 1785 conveyed to our late Board of Trade our Sentiments on the subject of the Brass Cog Wheels and Crossing Machines sent out by us for improving the Manufacture of the Silk, to which we refer you for information—We direct that an Account may be drawn out stating the Quantities of each Article that have been received in Calcutta, and the various dispositions that have been made thereof the quantities that now remain on hand as also the Sums that the Company have received as a reimbursement for the same.

53. We transmit you Copy of an Account we find entered in the Letters received by our Committee of Commerce under date the 19th April 1771 Specifying the prices paid by the Company for Raw Silk from 1765 to 1771. We are desirous that a Similar account may be made out commencing in the year 1772 and continuing the same up to the present period and that it be transmitted to us with all possible expedition.—



54. We have received P Redney your Import Warehouse Indent dated the 22nd December 1785 which is so materially decreased from what it has been on an average of 10 Years past that we are at a Loss to account for it, and as your Letters do not contain any Intelligence respecting Woollens. It is our positive orders in future that you forward us by every opportunity the fullest information possibly to be obtained on that head.—

We are,

Your affectionate Friends  
Jno Michie/John Motteux/John  
Manship/Joseph Sparkes/Abram  
Roberts/George Cumming/Hugh  
Inglis/John Travers/Jn. Town-  
son/John Roberts/J. Smith/W.  
Bensley/Thos. Cheap/R. Hall  
John Hunter.

London.  
the 21st July 1786.  
[Copy per Intelligence]

[Endorsement] Company's General Letter To Bengal No. 3

## LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1786

*Supercargoes and their Select Committee for the China trade appointed—Rates of allowances to the King's Naval Officers in India—report on Calcutta-Chunargarh road to be sent annually—trial to be given to Ruspini's styptic solution and Sir James Wright's invention of building material—shipping arrangements for the year by the Company—Maderia wine and other goods for settlements in the East—tea trade with China greatly increased.*

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para 1. Our last letter to you, dated the 21st of July 1786, was transmitted by the Intelligence Packet, Duplicate whereof is enclosed.

2. Since the departure of that Vessel we have received the following Advice from your Presidency Vizt.

General Letters dated 6th, 8th and 28th February, 7th and 25th March 1786.

Secret letters dated 28th February and 24th March 1786.

Letters in the Secret Department of Inspection dated 28th February, 9th and 24th March 1786.

Letters in the Foreign Department dated 26th February, 4th and 24th March 1786.

Revenue Letters dated 7th and 28th February and 23rd March 1786.  
Letter from the Governor General dated the 25th March 1786.

Letters from the Board of Trade dated 7th and 24th February, 7th, 18th (with Postscripts of the 20th and 23d) and 25th March 1786.

Letters from Lieutt General Sloper dated 21st and 24th March and 8th April 1786.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Bruere dated 9th March 1786.

Letter from Mr. Secretary Hay dated the 28th March 1786.

3. And we shall take an early opportunity of giving our orders and directions on such parts of the said Advices as may appear to demand our attention.

#### Public Department

4. Having thought fit to appoint Messrs Henry Brown, Abraham Roebuck, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce and Charles Edwar Pigou to be a Select Committee of Supra Cargos with full powers to transact the Company's business in China, we direct that you address the said Committee, whenever our Affairs shall render it necessary for you to correspond with our Servants at Canton.

5. We have appointed Messrs Henry Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freeman, Thomas Kerryck Van Mierop, William Fitzhugh, Richard Hall, Samuel Peach and Hugh Parkin to be Supra Cargos under our said Select Committee.

6. Daniel Corneille Esqr. having obtained our permission to resign the Government of our Island St. Helena, we have appointed Robert Brooke Esqr to succeed him in the Government. We have likewise appointed Francis Robson Esqr. to be Lieutt. Governor of our said Island St. Helena.

7. We have resolved that the following allowances be made by the Company in future to His Majesty's Naval Officers when serving in India, vizt.

To the Commander in Chief at the rate of £ 1,500 P Annum,  
One thousand five hundred Pounds.

To each other Flag Officer ————— 1,000 One Thousand  
Pounds.

To each Post Captain ————— 500 Five hundred Pounds.

To each Master and Commander ————— 250 two hundred and  
fifty Pounds.

To the Ward Room of a third rate ————— 250 two hundred and  
and upwards fifty Pounds.

Do or the Lieutenants' Mess of each Ship of 40 and 50 Guns.  
170 One hundred & Seventy Pounds.

Do of each Frigate under 40 Guns ————— 125 One hundred  
& twenty five Pounds.

Do of each Sloop ————— 85 Eighty five Pounds.

8. The said Sums to be reduced into Indian Currency at the rate of 2s. for each Bengal Current Rupee, 2s/3d for each Bombay rupee and 8s for each Gold Star Pagoda.

One House to the Commander in Chief.

One Do to each Flag Officer.

One Do to every four Captains.

9. That the beforementioned be in full consideration of every allowance or expence whatever to be made or borne by the Company; and on no account or pretence to be exceeded—And that the same do commence from the arrival of the Ships at their first Port in India, and cease at the time of their departure from India.

10. Our letter of the 21st July last, contained directions for extending to the 31st March 1787 the term allowed—the Bond holders at the several Presidencies, to signify their acquiescence in the terms proposed by the Company for the liquidation of their debts in India.

11. Since the transmission of that letter we have received an application from Mr. David Vanderheyden, requesting that as he doubts whether his instructions to his Attornies, Messrs Bayne and Colvins, for accepting those terms may reach Bengal, within the prescribed period, they may be allowed to signify his consent to the same and that orders may be sent to Bengal accordingly. And having resolved to comply with his request we direct that you place Mr. Vanderheyden's Bonds on the same footing as if his attornies had regularly signified their acquiescence in the Company's proposals within the limited period. It is necessary to observe that the Sum stated by Mr. Vanderheyden is about 60,000 Rupees Sixty thousand Rupees.

12. Mr. Charles Crommelin formerly Governor of Bombay having addressed to us a Memorial praying to be granted an annuity by the Company, we have resolved, in consideration of his former Services, his advanced Age, and his present distress, that he be allowed (2,000) Two thousand Current Rupees P Annum during his life, to be paid to him in Bengal, and to commence from Midsummer last; we therefore direct that you cause the same to be paid accordingly.

13. Having taken into consideration a Memorial of Captain Charles Ranken praying for payment of Sicca Rupees 50,000 fifty thousand which was to have been paid him by our Governor General and Council for completing a Road from Calcutta to Chunagur<sup>1</sup> together with Interest on the said Sum from the time the Road was completed, and it appearing that he began and completed the Road by order of our Governor General and Council under a promise of being paid the beforementioned Sum of Sicca Rupees 50,000

fifty thousand as a reward for the same and that he executed it in a very satisfactory manner; We have determined, and accordingly direct that on the arrival in Bengal of the first Ship now bound thither you grant Bills of Exchange on us, for the said Sum to Captain Ranken at the rate of 1s/8d P Current Rupee at one year's sight with an option of further extension of three years at an Interest of five P Cent P Annum payable half yearly, and as a compensation for Interest on the said Sum of 50,000 Rupees fifty thousand rupees, we have resolved that the Interest on the Bills shall commence from the time of their being granted.

14. We further direct that the State and condition of the Road be annually reported to us, together with the observations of the Officers commanding Detachments who may have occasion to march by that route with an account of the expence of repairs that we may be informed whether our former Orders, not to exceed the annual Sum of 16,000 Rupees sixteen thousand Rupees for that purpose are strictly attended to.

15. In our Letter of the 28th April 1786 you were advised that we had permitted the Revd Robartes Carr to proceed to India, and to succeed to the first Vacancy of Chaplain at any of our Presidencies after the Revd. Mr. Owen, we are now to acquaint you that Mr. Carr takes passage on the Ship Houghton..

16. We have permitted Dr. Ralph Irving to proceed to Bengal to practise as a Physician.

17. Mr. John Facra who was an Assistant Surgeon, on your Establishment has our leave to return to Bengal, to practise in his Profession; and he is to be promoted in our Service according to the directions given in our Letter dated the 16th March 1784.

18. Mr. Ruspini having presented us a Pamphlet on the virtues of his Styptic Solution with a request that some of it might be sent to the East Indies; we have determined to send five small Bottles to your Presidency on each of the Ships Britannia and Atlas by way of experiment, with printed Cases and Instructions for the use of it. You will therefore give the most positive injunctions to your Surgeons to allow this Styptic a fair trial in order to determine on it's efficacy, in those cases where it appears to have been so much extolled and direct them to report to you the result of their Proceedings with their opinion thereon which you are to transmit to us, properly authenticated, Numbers in the Packets, that we may be enabled to judge of the beneficial consequences to be expected from the use of this Styptic, and how far it may be proper to give suitable encouragement to the Inventor, by sending annually such supplies of it to our different Settlements as may be found necessary.

19. We have permitted Mr. George Gordon to return to Bengal for the purpose of settling his affairs, and renewing his business as a printer.

20. Mr. Christopher Webb Turner who obtained our permission to proceed to India in the Season of 1779 under Free Mariner's Indentures has lately represented to us that he took passage on the

Ship Royal George but was unfortunately captured by the combined Fleets of France and Spain in August 1780 and carried into Cadiz, where he was detained a prisoner a considerable time, and reduced to such distressed circumstances as to be unable to avail himself of our indulgence after his return to England, and requested our permission to proceed to India under his former license and it appearing that his allegations were well founded, and that he has been regularly bred to the profession of a Seaman, we have granted him leave accordingly.

21. Herewith you will receive Extract of a Letter from the Governor and Council of St. Helena dated the 9th August 1786,\* wherein they complain of the short delivery of the Supplies which you advised them, had been consigned to that Island from your Presidency last Season; they also represent that the Bills of Lading, Invoices and Receipts for the said Supplies have been very irregularly transmitted, and that they continually suffer from the Commanders of our Ships detaining whatever part of the necessaries consigned to them, they think proper. They further inform us that Mr. Bruere has been very negligent in his duty, in not complying with your directions respecting the Consignments for that Island either in quantity or quality. We therefore direct that you cause an enquiry to be made into these allegations and adopt such measures as will effectually prevent similar complaints in future. And should Mr. Bruere be found guilty of the charge preferred against him, it is our pleasure that you reprimand him in our name, and acquaint him that a repetition of such neglect of his duty will subject him to the most serious marks of our displeasure.

22. We direct that there be transmitted to us (in Triplicate at the least) Specimens of every Species of Silver and Copper Coinage current in Bengal, with a concise history of each particularly specifying where coined, by whom, the weight, fineness, real and nominal value, what quantities are supposed to be coined annually, and as far as you may be able to ascertain, what quantities of each are supposed to be in circulation, with how far such quantities are proportioned to the general wants.

23. Sir James Wright a very ingenious Gentleman of this Country who has obtained his Majesty's Patent for the manufacturing and vending of a new invented Artificial [sic] Slate which is pronounced highly useful in the covering of Buildings as a valuable and Oeconomical Substitute for the materials usually used on such occasions; having applied to us that Specimens thereof might be sent out to our several Presidencies in order that a trial may be made of their effects in India, and as we are at all times willing to shew every suitable encouragement to Works of public utility, we have agreed to comply with his request, you will therefore receive a quantity on the Ship Princess Amelia the particulars of which will be expressed in that Ships Invoice, and we shall also transmit a number in the Packet some printed Pamphlets which contain the necessary explanations with respect to its qualities as also proper directions for using the same.

\*See Home Public Letters from Court, Vol. 28, 1785-7, pp. 83-4.

24. The quantity we intend to sending we estimate to be sufficient for a roof of 50 Feet by 40, which we would have placed on the first building of that dimensions, there may be occasion to erect on the Company's account. You will give the necessary directions that very particular attention be paid to the Instructions in the Pamphlet respecting the mode of laying the same as we wish to obtain the most fair and impartial account of it's merits or defects, which we desire you will transmit us as soon as the same shall have been fully and completely ascertained.

#### Military Department

25. We shall send 980 Recruits for the Service of your Presidency by the Ships of this Season.

26. Major Charles Chatfield who obtained our permission to return to his rank in the Military at your Presidency proceeded on the Intelligence Packet.

27. Lieutenant Andrew Young of your Establishment who on account of ill health, resigned the Company's Service and proceeded to England for the purpose of being admitted to the benefit of the of the Military fund, having unexpectedly recovered his health, has declined that Provision and solicited our permission to return to his duty without prejudice to his rank; and having taken his merits and sufferings into consideration, we have complied with his request. The Company's Claim on Lieutt. Young as stated in the 35th and 36th Paragraphs of your General Letter of 7th March 1785 may therefore be adjusted with him when he shall arrive in Bengal, for which purpose we return you his Bills. Lieutt. Young is also permitted to take his Wife with him, and on account of the peculiar hardships of his case, we have provided them with a Passage at the Company's expense.

28. Lieutt. George Mercer has obtained our permission to return to his rank in our Military Service at your Presidency, and takes passage on a Danish Ship.

29. Several of his Majesty's Military Officers who have served in the East Indies have represented to us that in consequence of a proper attention not having been paid in India by accommodating them with a passage to Europe on board the Company's Ships, they have been obliged to proceed on Foreign Ships at a very great expence.

30. As we fear there is but too much ground for the Complaints preferred to us by those Gentlemen, it is our positive order that in future you pay a particular attention to applications from his Majesty's Officers for a passage to Europe on Board the Company's Ships, and that in all such cases they shall have a preference to persons who may not to be in the Company's Service.

31. Applications having been made to us by

John Waldron,

Owen Kelly

William Gibbons &

John Lyle

late privates of Artillery in Bengal to be admitted Pensioners on the Military Fund; and it appearing by a letter from your Fort Adjutant to Captain Smith of the Dublin dated 7th March 1786 that 17 Common Discharges were sent on Board that Ship, but that those of the Invalids were to be forwarded to us, which however has been omitted; and it being strongly presumed that the four men above-named, are included in the number of those recommended for the Pension from their names being inserted in the List of Charterparty Passengers by the Dublin; and it appearing that they are invalided, and incapable of providing for their maintenance, we have granted them an allowance of 6d. P Day from the said Fund, but have determined not to admit them Pensioners until their Certificates shall have been received.

32. We cannot however avoid expressing our disapprobation of this omission, and direct that the said Certificates be transmitted by the first dispatch after the receipt hereof.

### Commercial Department

33. The names of the Ships taken up for India and China for the present Season are as follow Vizt.

	Tons		
Thetis . . . . .	804	Captain Justinian Natt	} Bengal.
Atlas . . . . .	763	Allen Cooper	
Lord Camden . . . . .	775	Nathl. Dance Junr.	} Madeira and Bengal.
Britannia (Company's) . . . . .	770	Edward Cumming	
Rodney . . . . .	772	Allen Chatfield	
Princess Royal . . . . .	805	James Horncastle	} Coast & Bay
Henry Dundas . . . . .	802	Angus Mc Nab	
Minerva . . . . .	799	Robert Fairfull	
Busbridge . . . . .	771	Thomas Robertson	
Princess Amelia . . . . .	808	Stephen Williams	Madeira Coast & Bay.
Lascelles . . . . .	824	Richd. Atherton	} Coast & China
		Farrington	
Royal Admiral . . . . .	914	Joseph Huddart	
Osterley . . . . .	775	Jopseph Clarkson	
Houghton . . . . .	778	James Monro	
Glatton . . . . .	778	Charles Drummond	
Hawke . . . . .	799	Richard Pennell	
Rose . . . . .	801	John Hamilton Dempster	
Woodcot . . . . .	802	Ninian Lowis	
Earl Fitz William . . . . .	799	Captn. James Dundas	Madeira Coast & China.

		Tons		
Admiral Barrington . . . .	527	Chas. Lindegren	}	China.
Dover . . . . .	700	John Denis		
Marquis of Lansdown . . . .	620			
Earl of Wycombe . . . . .	580	John Wm. Wood		
Lord Walsingham . . . . .	575	John Paiba		
Hartwell . . . . .	928	Edwd. Fiott		
Nottingham . . . . .	1106			
Belvidere . . . . .	978	William Greer	}	Bombay and China.
King George . . . . .	776	George Millett		
Melville Castle . . . . .	806	Philip Dundas		
Locko . . . . .	758	John Baird		
Warren Hastings . . . . .	763	John Pascal Larkins		Bombay.
General Elliott . . . . .	800	Robert Drummond		Madeira and Bombay.
Earl of Chesterfield . . . . .	810	John Cranstoun	}	St. Helena & Bencoolen.
Francis . . . . .	789	Robt. Burrowes		

34. The terms and conditions on which the said Ships are taken up, will appear by their respective Charterparties Copies of which will be sent in their several Packets.

35. We have put on Board the Britannia 2,000 (two thousand) Ounces of Foreign Silver for the use of that Ship in case she should be obliged to put into any Foreign Ports for refreshments or repairs during the Voyage for which Captain Cumming is to account on his return to England.

36. The Consignments to our several Settlements in India and China this Season will principally consist of the following particulars Vizt.

For Bengal Cloth 209 Bales, Long Ells 100 Bales, Broad Long Ells 40 Bales, Lead 50 Tons, Iron 40 Tons, Steel 20 Tons, Copper 400 Tons.

For Fort St. George Cloth 477 Bales, Long Ells 25 Bales, Lead 50 Tons, Iron 80 Tons, Steel 20 Tons, Copper 208½ Tons.

For Bombay Cloth 985 Bales, Long Ells 250 Bales, Board Long Ells 36 Bales, Lead 50 Tons, Iron 180 Tons, Steel 600 Tons, Copper 350 Tons.

For Bussora Cloth 123 Bales, Long Ells 300 Bales.

For Bushire<sup>2</sup> Cloth 77 Bales, Long Ells 150 Bales.

For Fort Marlbro' Lead 20 Tons, Iron 10 Tons, Steel 15 Tons.

For China Cloth 1167 Bales, Long Ells 3000 Bales, Camblots 10 Bales, Lead 1830 Tons, Copper 21½ Tons.

37. We have contracted with Messrs John Searle and Co. to supply the Company with 536 Pipes of Madeira Wine to be sent to the East Indies and China this Season at £ 20 (Twenty pounds) P Pipe and in all other respects on the same terms and conditions as the Contracts entered into for that Article last year.

38. The persons with whom we have made this Contract have entered into an agreement, a Copy whereof is enclosed,\* and you will govern yourselves in the management and disposal of the Wine agreeably to the terms and tenor of that agreement.

39. Of the above 536 Pipes of Madeira Wine to be sent to India this Season, 240 Pipes are for the use of your Presidency and will be consigned to you on the

Lord Camden	83
Britannia	78
Rodney	79
<hr/>	
	240

40. There will also be taken on each of the Ships Britannia and Rodney 5 Pipes for our Servants at Fort Marlbro', which must be forwarded thither by the first conveyance.

41. We direct that in future all Wines after they have been received on our account be put up to public Sale within thirty days after their being landed, at a price of not less than 30 P Cent advance upon the first cost, with the charges thereon, reckoning the leakage as a part of the same, and that they be sold to the best bidder.

42. Upon the arrival of the Wines at your Settlement it is our order that previous to their being landed, you send some capable person on board to examine and report to you whether they were properly stowed and immediately on their being landed, you must in the presence of the Commander or some person whom he shall appoint to attend on his behalf, cause them to be gauged in order to ascertain what has been the leakage in the Voyage, a particular report of which must be sent to us, together with your opinion whether the same may be attributed to the badness of the Casks, ill stowage, embezzlement or any other causes for which either the persons who supply the wines or the Owners of the Ships ought properly to be answerable.

43. And we direct that you inform us what quantities of this Article are imported by the Commanders and Officers of our Ships from Europe, and what by Foreigners or in Country Ships from the other parts of India, in order that we may ascertain as nearly as possible, what is the consumption thereof in Bengal, and thereby be the better enabled to judge of our future Consignments.

44. Our Sentiments and directions upon this as well as the other articles of our Exports were so fully expressed in our General Letter of the 12th April last, that at present we have only to repeat them in the most forcible terms, and we trust your returning Advices will afford us proofs of your having paid a due attention thereto.

\*See Home Public Letters from Court, Vol. 28, 1785-87, pp. 85-8.

45. In making up the Accounts of profit and Loss on the several Articles of our Exports from this Country as directed in the 104th Paragraph of our General letter of the 12th April last, we direct that you follow the same practice as is directed respecting the Madeira Wine, and that in the exchange you calculate the Rupee at 2s. (two Shillings) only instead of 2s. 6d. (two Shillings and Six pence) as heretofore.

46. As our Supra Cargoes at Canton will require very material assistance to their funds for providing Cargos for our returning Shipping in the present increased state of the Tea Trade it becomes highly essential in order to reduce as much as possible our remittances to them in Bullion that we should endeavour to keep the China Market supplied in as ample a manner as it shall be found to bear with every Article of Merchandize, the growth, product or manufacture of Europe, or of any of our Possessions in India or parts adjacent thereto, that may be vendible in that Country; to this End we have directed our Supra Cargos to transmit to you, as also to the rest of our Presidencies in India the best information they may be able to procure of the quantities of any of such Goods that may be annually taken off at China, and at what prices, and in order the better to assist them therein, we direct that by all opportunities that shall offer you regularly transmit them the prices current of Goods procurable within the Company's Possessions in Bengal, and also concert with them such measures as shall best tend to accomplish our desires in this respect.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

Jno. Michie/John Motteux/J.  
fanship/Hugh Inglis/Thos. Parry/  
Abram Roberts/Tho. Cheap/  
George Tatem/W. Bensley/  
Joseph Sparkes/George Cuming/  
Jacob Bosanquet/Lionel Darell/  
Paul Le Mesurier/J. Smith/John  
Travers.

London

22d December 1786

[Copy Pe *Thetis*]

[Endorsement] Company's General Letter to Bengal

Extracted S. Pigen.

10

LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1787

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Public Department

Para 1. Very heavy demands having been made [on Us by] the Owners of several Ships, on account of their Commanders not having been supplied with the £ 200 P. Month agreed by Charterparty to be paid them for the whole time their Ships shall be in India or

China; and these Demands, which are at present under discussion, being likely not only to draw a very great expence on the Company but also to be attended with much difficulty in the adjustment, We positively direct, that you do in future regularly make the said payments to the Commanders in Cash, agreeably to the stipulation, and at the Rates of Exchange, specified in the Charterparties. And if it shall at any time happen that the state of your Treasury shall make it absolutely impossible for you to pay the same, We do hereby authorize you, in such case, to raise Money sufficient for the purpose of making such payments upon Bills on Us, at Twelve Months sight; And we require you to give us regular Advice of any Bills you may draw for this particular purpose: We also think fit to inform you, that if we shall at any future time judge proper to make any allotment to the different Presidencies of the £ 300,000 (three hundred thousand pounds) to which amount we are authorized by Act of Parliament, to accept Bills drawn on us from India, the Bills drawn by any Presidency, for the purpose abovementioned must be considered as a part of the share of the said £ 300,000 allowed to such Presidency.

2. From the very great disproportion subsisting between the present Rate of Exchange allowed in payment of Certificates granted on the indulgence of the Commanders and Officers of the Company's Ships at your Presidency, and the rate allowed in payment of such Certificates granted by our President and Council of Fort St. George, we have resolved, in order to put the said Rates upon a more equal footing, that the Current Rupee be reduced from two Shillings and a penny to *two Shillings*, and the Current or Star Pagoda increased from seven shilling and four pence to *eight shillings* in exchange for all Moneys that may be hereafter paid into your and their Treasury respectively for such Certificates; you are therefore to observe that the Amount of the Certificates granted on account of each Ships Privilege be calculated accordingly, so that they may not in the whole exceed the allowance of five thousand Pounds P. Ship.

3. We also direct that the three Certificates contained in each Set be in future distinguished by First, Second and Third, written in Words under the Number.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

Jno, Michie/John	Motteux/John
Hunter/Abram	Roberts/John
Manship/Lionel	Darell/John
Roberts/George	Tatem/John
Traverse/Chas. Mills/George	Cum-
ing/Thos. Cheap/Thos. Parry/	
J. Smith/Jn. Townson/W. Bens-	
ley/Jacob Bosanquet/E. Boehm.	

London,  
the 10th January 1787.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to  
Bengal No. 1 Abstracted CR.  
Exd. Thos. Bazett.

## LETTER DATED 27 MARCH 1787

*Shipping details—new rules regarding leave salary of civil and military servants—observations on allowances of various officers and other establishment charges—encouragement to Company's servants' works in Persian and Hindustani—financial position of the Company—John Shore to head Revenue Department—office of the Governor General a selection appointment—constant increase in stationery expenses to be checked—Benares affairs—observations on Company's agents at Hyderabad—grant of Penang Island by the King of Keda—retrenchment in Revenue Department still unexecuted to be effected immediately—dispute regarding Munir-ud-Daulah's Jagir—opium policy specially as an article of China trade—purchase of Balasore salt—trade with Tibet to be encouraged—reduction in price of saltpetre—losses caused to the Company from English interlopers trading under foreign colours and corrupt practices by its own high officers—great deficiency in investments from Bengal criticised—urgent need of fixing standard weights and measures—guiding rules for investments—James Frushard's report on cost of raw silk criticised—contract for providing refined saltpetre injurious to Company's interests—loan to Berar government—accounts of expenses on the Crown troops in India to be thoroughly investigated—causes of friction between the Company's military officers and those of the Crown to be removed—Burdwan Raja's household troops to be substituted with regular army establishment—allegations against various members of Board of Trade.*

### OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para 1. On the 2nd January we received an overland Packet from your Presidency containing the following advices, Vizt.

General Letter dated 3rd July 1786

Secret Letter dated 30th June 1786

Revenue Letter dated 3rd July 1786

Letter from the Governor General dated 5th with Postscript of 12th July 1786.

2. It is our intention by this and the other Ships of the Season, to return an answer to all the particulars which have been the subject of your Correspondence with us, and to which answers have not been formerly made. This being done, there will be no difficulty in future to keep an exact punctuality in our Correspondence with you, by returning immediate answers to all your Letters by the Ships which sail after their arrival, and if any thing presses for greater dispatch we will answer them overland, or by a special Packet; but as the first of these methods is liable to obvious inconveniences, and the last is attended with considerable expense, we shall not have recourse to them, except when some particular urgency induces us to do it.

## Public Department

3. In consequence of an application from the Right Hon'ble Lord Sydney, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, we have licensed the undermentioned Ships to proceed to Botany Bay, in New South Wales for the purpose of carrying Convicts there, with the intention of forming a Settlement at that place Vizt.

	Tons	
Scarborough . . . . .	418	Captn. John Marshall
Lady Penrhyn . . . . .	338	Wm. Crepton Sever
Charlotte . . . . .	345	Thos. Gilbert
Alexander . . . . .	452	Duncan Sinclair
Friendship . . . . .	278	Captn. Fra. Walton
Fishburn . . . . .	378	Robt. Brown
Borrowdale . . . . .	272	Hobson Read
Golden Grove . . . . .	331	Wm. Shairp

4. We have taken up the Scarborough, Lady Penrhyn & Charlotte to bring home Teas from China, at the rate of £ 10 P. Ton Builders measurement, provided they are at Canton ready to receive their Cargoes, on or before the 15th January 1788; that they do not sail from thence with less than eight Men and a Boy for each 100 Tons; and that they bring such Surplus Tonnage as shall be laden on board them at Half Freight. We inclose a Copy of the License we have given to each of the above ships, for your information.

5. We have put one Chest of Port Wine on board each Ship carrying Eighty Recruits or upwards, whether belonging to His Majesty's Regiments serving in India, or raised for the Company's Service, for the use of the Recruits in case of Illness in such manner as the Surgeon may recommend, and as it is probable that the whole quantity will not be wanted for that purpose in the course of the Voyage, the Commanders must account for the expenditure of the Wine, and in case any part shall remain the same is to be received into Store for the use of our Hospitals.

6. We sent on the Ship Busbridge a new Fore Sail and Fore Top Sail with some spare cordage for the use of the Company's Ship Britannia, a Memorandum of the particulars of the same is inserted in that Ship's Invoice, and the Articles must be delivered to the Commander of the Britannia the first Opportunity.

7. The Britannia being well found with Anchors and Cables, it is probable that upon her leaving Bengal more of those articles may remain on board than she will have occasion for, in that case, you are to require Captain Cumming to deliver into the Company's Stores, such of the new ones as he can conveniently share.

8. Whenever Seeds or Plants of the growth of your Settlement shall be put on board any of our returning Ships for St. Helena; the Commanders must be enjoined to be particularly careful of them, and strictly observe such directions as may be given concerning them, in order that they may be deliver'd at the Island in as healthy a state as possible.

9. We have permitted Mr. James Grant to proceed to India as a Free Mariner, he is the only Person to whom we intend to grant our license as such this Season.

10. We have appointed Mr. William Jackson, now Register of the Supreme Court of Judicature, to be the Company's Attorney in Bengal, on the Death, Resignation or Coming away of Mr. George Wroughton provided he shall appear to be duly qualified, and on the like condition, it is our pleasure that Mr. Thomas Boileau at present in Bengal, do succeed to that Office, whenever the same may be vacated by Mr. Jackson.

11. Having resolved Unanimously that Mr. Claud Alexander be restored to the Company's Service we communicated the said Resolution to the General Court of Proprietors who concurred with us therein by a Vote passed, agreeably to Act of Parliament.

12. We have permitted Mr. John Lloyd to return to his rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency.

13. In our Letter of the 8th March last, we acquainted you, that at the desire of Mr. Salomons we had permitted Mr. Lyon Prager to proceed to Benares to carry on a Trade in Diamonds; and Diamond Boart, and other precious Stone & Pearls, and having lately received information that Mr. Owen Bowen, to whom we last year refused the like permission, has proceeded to India on a Danish Ship to oppose Mr. Prager, contrary to our intention, and to frustrate the Salutary purposes of the said undertaking, we direct in case Mr. Bowen shall be found within the Company's limits in Bengal, that you cause him to be sent to England by the first opportunity, agreeably to the 35th Clause in the late Act of Parliament.

14. Having taken into our most serious consideration the Pensions lately granted by you to several of our Civil Servants on your Establishment with permission to return to Europe and enjoy the same, and also the full pay you have granted to several Military Officers with permission to return to Europe on such full pay.

15. And having very attentively perused your several Advices and Proceedings respecting the same we came to the following Resolutions, Vizt.

**"Resolved Unanimously That on leave being granted to any of the Company's Civil Servants on the Bengal Establishment, to return to their Stations, it be on condition of their**

consenting to make the proof required, and to accept the allowances agreed to be made them by the Court by their General Letter of the 21st September 1785, and also that they give Bond, to repay to the Company, what may have been paid to them, or their Agents in Bengal beyond those allowances."

"That the Military Officers on their being permitted to return, do consent to receive the half pay granted them, by the beforementioned Letter of the 21st September 1785; and also, that they do give Bond to repay to the Company what may have been paid to them or their Agents in Bengal beyond such half pay."

"That such of the Company's Servants on the Bengal Civil Establishment, as have resigned on the before mentioned Pensions, and have notified their arrival in England, and requested to remain on those Pensions, be called upon, to signify their consent to the aforesaid conditions and acquainted, that in failure thereof they will be considered as having relinquished the Company's Service."

"That such of the Company's Military Officers on the Bengal Establishment, as have resigned on the full pay lately granted them by the Governor General and Council, and have notified their arrival in England, and requested to remain on such full pay, be called on to signify their consent to the aforesaid conditions, and acquainted that in failure thereof, they will be considered as having relinquished the Company's Service."

16. This arrangement has been notified to the several Civil and Military Servants on your Establishment who are now in England, and are affected by the two last Resolutions.

17. And it is our positive Order, that the Pensions and full pay granted by you to any of the Civil or Military Servants who have resigned our Service, and returned to Europe, which exceed the allowances mentioned in our beforementioned Letter of the 21st September 1785, do cease immediately on the receipt of these our Orders, and in lieu thereof, they are to receive the allowances specified in our said Letter.

18. The Bonds entered into by our Civil and Military Servants in England, for the repayment to the Company of the Extraordinary allowances paid to them, or their Agents in Bengal, will be transmitted to you, in order that the amount may be recovered.

19. By the 38th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 30th [29th] November 1783, you inform us that a number of Major Rennell's Atlases sent out in the Season 1781<sup>1</sup>, had been disposed of and the Proceeds of the Sales amounting to C. Rs. 9590-14—(Nine

thousand five hundred ninety, fourteen Annas) had been deposited in your Treasury.

20. On examining your Treasury Accounts and Books of Deposits, Our Auditor has observed to us that the above amount appears accordingly to have been so deposited, on the 28th November 1783 by Mr. Auriol your then Secretary, but why this mode of paying the Company's Money into their Treasury as a Deposit should have been adopted, instead of at once settling the Account by finally discharging the same, we cannot understand, as from the nature of the first, Sums so paid in, are at any time demandable by the Persons depositing, accordingly in the case before us, we find the same was paid back on the 9th February following; on which day the amount was again deposited in the Treasury, by Lieut. Colo. Watson, in two Separate Sums of C. Rs. 578.9. (Five hundred seventy eight Rupees nine annas) and C. Rs. 9012.5.— (Nine thousand and twelve Rupees, five Annas) the first of which was repaid to Colo. Watson on the 13th, and the latter on the 28th of the said Month of February.

21. From the foregoing State of the transaction therefore, it is evident that the Company have not been properly credited for this amount; but as the reasons for the above Transfer do not appear on your Records, we direct you to supply us with a proper explanation thereof, by the first opportunity, and if it shall be found that from want of recollecting the cause of the deposit, first made by Mr. Auriol, it had been repaid to him or his Attorney on the supposition of its being his own property, we direct that you lose no time on calling the latter, for the instant payment into the Company's Treasury of the sum, on which we shall also expect to receive Interest from the 9th of February 1784.

22. We must further remark that if this shall prove to have been the case, it betrays great inattention on the part of those Officers, in whose department this business lays, and renders them deserving of censure.

23. By the "Account of the established and other Allowances drawn by all Persons in the Civil Division of the General Department on the 31st December 1785," received by the Winterton, it appears that the Charges of that Division amounted to Current Rupees twenty four Lacs ninety eight thousand, six hundred and twenty (C. Rs. 24,98,620) which exceeds by four Lacs, ninety eight thousand six hundred and twenty (C. Rs. 4,98,620) the sum limited by our Orders of the 11th April 1785, but as this includes the expence of attending the Adawlut, Fougday, Cutwally, and other Establishments at Benares, which have been allowed only since the Agreement with Rajah Myhipnarrain in 1781,<sup>3</sup> by which a considerable increase of Tribute accrue to the Company, we are content that such expences, after undergoing your revision in order to see if any reduction therein may be practicable, should be consider'd as extra to the sum of twenty Lacs limited for your Civil Establishments, but exclusive of this we hope and trust such further retrenchments will be made in this division, as may bring its expence within the bounds we have prescribed.

24. The Salary of Sa. Rs. (25,000) twenty five thousand which you have allotted to the Sub Treasurer had not come to our knowledge, when our Orders abovementioned were given, and exceeds by much that allowed to any Officer under the Civil Department by those Orders, We cannot say we are convinced by any means that such excess is warranted by a comparison of the duties of labours of this office; with those of others in the Civil line, we observe likewise, that the allowances granted to his two Assistants on the 13th February 1786, of six hundred sicca Rupees each; exceed those now drawn by the Sub Secretaries, or Head Assistants in the other Offices, you will therefore see the necessity of these undergoing your reconsideration.

25. By your Proceedings of the 28th Septem. 1785 it appears you then, had it in contemplation to unite the two Offices of Public and Secret Secretary under one; at present the Salaries to the Secretaries and Assistants, are higher than the sum limited by our Orders of the 11th April 1785, by Sicca Rupees 4000 (Four thousand) and upwards exclusive of those serving on the subsistence of their Ranks, but when you shall have carried the above measure in to effect, we doubt not but the sum allowed by us will be found fully sufficient for the Establishment of the Secretary, and as many Covenant Servants, as he may require for Assistants.

26. With respect to those, who have been allowed to act as Extra Assistants in the Secretaries Offices, on the Pensions of their Ranks, we must observe that you have gone beyond our intentions on that subject, for many of these would, by your Regulations, receive more than if they held appointments in the regular gradation of Office; thus, for instance, the two youngest Assistants in the Secretary's Office of the Public Department, before our Orders reached you, drew the first Sicca Rupees 150 (one hundred and fifty) P. Month the other, Sicca Rupees 100 (one hundred) P. Month. Whereas by your resolution of the 22nd November 1785, they draw each Sicca Rups. 208-5-4 (Two hundred & eight-Five-Four) P. Month being the Pension assigned to Writers unemployed, or removed from more lucrative situations; exclusive of which you have held out to them, the prospect of a Gratuity; which we think on the grounds before-mentioned, totally inadmissible.

27. And here we must notice the suggestion of your Accountant General in his Letter of the 7th November 1785 "that it is natural to suppose that when a servant has the option of receiving more, for being unemployed, than he will draw for the Allowance of a laborious Station he will prefer the former" on which we shall observe, as no doubt you will have consider'd, that it was your duty to prevent such an option being left to the Servants; by filling the Offices with a sufficient number of Assistants at regular gradated Salaries; for our Orders relative to the expence of the Secretary's Office can only be construed as to the whole of such expence, not as directing a limited number of Assistants, and when the Offices in general are properly supplied, we are of opinion that the expence for Pensions to their Junior Classes of Servants at least, can be but small.

28. Our Orders of the 21st September 1785, respecting Pensions, preclude the necessity of expatiating further on the subject at present, but before we quit it entirely, we must observe you acted Wrong in granting the Pension of his rank to Sir Chas. Wm. Blunt; on his application for it under the Plea of his not being otherwise employed than as holding a Contract, the Profit or Loss of which was uncertain—however well we may be disposed to think of Sir Chas. Blunt's conduct, we have not the least idea of any person, in or out of our Service being willing to undertake a Contract, to so great an extent, as the one held by that Gentleman, without being nearly assured of an advantage to arise therefrom, and therefore we direct that whatever may have been paid to Sir Charles Blunt for the subsistence of his Rank be refunded on receipt of this Letter.

29. The reduction you have effected in the expence of Monthly Writers, is highly satisfactory to us, the Orders contained in our Separate Letter of the 21st September 1785 Paras : 13 and 14 respecting the mode of their being employed, will be sufficient for your guidance, and we must here observe that the necessity for filling confidential situations in the several Offices, with our European Covenanted Servants, as remarked in the latter of those Paragraphs, is greatly corroborated by the representation of the Accountant General, to your Revenue Department recorded the 20th December 1785; if the Stations in his Office which he asserts to be of so much consequence had been occupied by the Covenanted Servants of the Company, instead of Monthly Writers, there could have been no ground for his remonstrance on the occasion and surely **“Character and Integrity”** may be equally at least expected from the first, and **“Entries of immense account and consequence”** should rather we conceive have been intrusted to them; besides not only, would this have better qualified our Servants, for the higher Stations of the Office, which is certainly an important one, by giving them experience in the business, and properly training them to accounts, but the Salaries given to Messrs. Ivory Sheriff & De Rozio are in our opinion such as made the Posts they held desirable, even to Covenanted Servants not of the Junior Class.

30. This therefore is a subject which merits your attention, in order that the General Principle, laid down in the 11th & 12th Paragraphs of our aforesaid Letter may be properly enforced.

31. By the List which accompanied our Orders of the 11th April 1785, the Salary to the Sub Accountant General was directed to be reduced to Sicca Rupees 5920 (Five thousand nine hundred & twenty) P. Annum as in 1776, but we observe on his application you added to this, the allowance of Sicca Rupees 1680 (One thousand six hundred & eighty) fixed by the same List for the Assistant to the Comptroller of Offices and as the Accountant General in a great measure performs the duties formerly annexed to the Office of Comptroller, and of course is assisted therein by the Sub Accountant, we approve of this addition being made.

32. On the 14th January 1786, the Sub Accountant, made a further application to be allowed the Salary of Sa. Rs. 350 (Three hundred

& fifty) P. Month drawn by his Predecessor in lieu of the Profit derived from the purchase and distribution of the Stationary, to which you also consented.

33. It appears by your Proceedings of the 20th March 1783, that this allowance was then first established, at the recommendation of the Governor General, in Consideration of a probable increase to the Sub Accountant's business, by the temporary absence of Mr. Larkins for the recovery of his health, and in order that he might have as much time as possible for the discharge of the more important duties of his office, the care and distribution of the Stationary was taken from him, and this allowance given him as an equivalent for the profits he derived therefrom.

34. We are not convinced by the Arguments then used of the necessity for this arrangement, in case of absence of the Chief of any Office by sickness or otherwise, the Deputy will of course officiate in his room, but if additional Salaries on that account were given in every instance, there is no foreseeing to what expence this might lead.

35. From the general tenor of your Orders, and the exact Letter thereof, as to the Office in question, it must clearly be inferred, that we meant to adhere in most instances to the allowances granted in 1776, and your determination on that, here noticed, is apparently guided by this inference, but we find the Stationary at that period was not under charge of the Sub Accountant as you state, but purchased by the Buxey; We cannot therefore approve of the addition of Sa. Rups. 350 (Three hundred & fifty) P. Month to the Sub Accountants Salary and direct it be abolished on receipt of this Letter, exclusive of which, we find by the List No. 17 received by the Winterton his emoluments amount to Sa. Rups. 10,666 (Ten thousand six hundred & sixty six) P. Annum.

36. We do not by these Orders mean to throw the smallest censure on the conduct of your Sub Accountant General, which has, as it appears to deserve, our entire approbation, we have only in view to guard against any deviation from our positive Orders, and to shew the strictest Impartiality in the distribution of rewards to all our Servants, many of whom might we apprehend think themselves aggrieved, by the least appearance of any partial Indulgence.

37. On your Secret Inspection Proceedings of the 30th November 1785 appears a Letter from the Buxey, applying for the same Establishment of servants as allowed for that Office in 1776, amounting as he states to no less a sum than C. Rs. 1707-8-9 (One thousand seven hundred & seven, eight annas nine Pice) P. Month, the Governor General then acquainted the Board, he had an intention to lay some propositions before them on the subject of this and other Letters then received, but without the least propositions of the kind appearing on record or any reason being assigned for the resolution, on the 27th December following, you complied with the Buxey's request, in its full extent, besides which by the List No. 17 P. Winterton we find he draws the fixed Monthly Sum of Arcot Rupees 470

(Four hundred & Seventy) for Repairs of the Company's Buildings though your resolution above mentioned, is silent as to this Article, stating only, that the Buxey, should be allowed the same "Establishment as was drawn for conducting the business of this Office in 1776."

38. We cannot omit expressing our disapprobation, at this neglect of our orders, when the Office of Buxey was changed in April 1781, to that of Civil Paymaster, the allowance for Writers, Sircars, Shroffs, Stationary & ca or in other words, the whole Establishment of his Office, was confined to Sont: Rups. 364 (Three hundred & sixty four) or C. Rs. 404 (Four hundred & four) P. Month to what can we impute then the extraordinary allowances you have lately granted him, but to the intent of his drawing a personal advantage therefrom, and that to no inconsiderable an amount thereby evading our Orders for reducing his Commissions, by giving him an Emolument, in another way, for can it be supposed, that an Establishment thought sufficient to the very period of the arrival of our Orders should be considered as requiring an Increase immediately on receipt of those Orders, for any other purpose? Besides on examination of the Establishment of Servants for the Office in 1776, it is found to include the expence of Servants looking after Stores, Provisions and Stationary, and keeping Accounts thereof; Matters particularly noticed in your Resolution, as not to come under charge of the Buxey.

39. We are concerned to find you did not give more consideration to the subject before you determined on an Allowance to so great an extent, and do most positively direct, that it be annulled immediately, on receipt of this Letter, and no more than the former Establishment of Sont: Rups. 364 (Three hundred & sixty four) P. Month, be henceforward drawn, the allowance for repairs must also be abolished, and those be made, as they become absolutely necessary, and with every possible attention to frugality, but as we are free to admit, that the emoluments of the Buxey at present cannot be equal to those he enjoyed in 1776, from his being deprived of the profits arising from the purchase of Stores Provisions & Stationary at that time annexed to this Office, if you think its duties are so important as to require a small addition to the salary fixed by us, we shall not object to it being made.

40. We have attended to the representation of your Post Master General, and your Resolutions in consequence, respecting his allowances, our Orders as to the Office Charges, were given on the following grounds, it appears by the Post Office Accounts, entered on the Proceedings of the Board of Inspection in the year 1776, that Sa. Rups. 1300 (thirteen hundred) P. Month were allowed for the Office Establishment, exclusive of House Rent, and by Proceedings of 12th November 1778, that he applied for an addition thereto of Rups. 214 (Two hundred & fourteen) P. Month which was granted.

41. From these two Sums if the Salaries to the Post Master and Deputy were deducted, the remainder will be rather less than the sum we have allowed, which as we were convinced of the necessity for keeping up a proper Establishment for this Office, we did not order to be reduced in the General Retrenchments directed.

42. In the List of Offices on the 1st February 1785 the Post Master's Establishment for Monthly Writers &c. is stated only at Sa. Rups. 668 (six hundred & sixty eight) P. Month or Sa. Rups. 7968 (seven thousand nine hundred & sixty eight) P. Annum; our Orders therefore have added, Sa. Rs. 1232 (one thousand two hundred & thirty two) P. Annum, to this Establishment and as you have reduced the allowances to Monthly Writers we are of opinion the grounds for complying with Mr. Cockerill's request on this subject are in great measure done away. We therefore direct that the expence of Monthly Writers, Peons and Letter Sorters at the General Post Office, do not exceed the Sum limited by us.

43. We recommend however to your consideration whether the appointment of one, or more of the Covenant Servants as Assistants to the Post Master General, might not be a measure worthy of adoption in order the better to qualify them for rising to the higher Stations in the Office, with the Salaries usually given to Junior Assistants in other Offices.

44. With regard to the allowance of Sa. Rs. 18000 (Eighteen thousand) P. Annum for the charge of the Dawk Bearers which you have thought proper to continue to the Post Master General notwithstanding our order, for its being abolished, we have attentively considered the reasons urged for the noncompliance with our directions, the principal of which appears to be "that the expence to the Company is in a considerable degree if not wholly saved by a deduction in the allowance to Passengers using this Conveyance by order of Government, which they would otherwise be intitled to".

45. On this Principle we conceive then that the Company should not have been put to any expence for travelling charges of their servants going the Road, on which the Dawk Bearers are laid, other than the Expence of those Bearers yet we find notwithstanding that since their institution Travelling Allowances to no small amount have been granted at different times, to some of our Servants, for instance, particularly to Mr. Fowke going to, and Mr. Markham coming from Benares in 1783 of CRs. 1728 (one thousand seven hundred & twenty eight) each and to Messrs Benn & Playdell of C. Rs. 756 (seven hundred and fifty six) each going as Assistants to Benares in 1782 not to mention many instances of allowances to Servants travelling to and from Patna or Moorshedabad both which places are included in the first proposals for establishing the Dawk Bearers.

46. But even if no such Instances had been adduced before the propriety of the measures can be established it remains to be proved whether the incidental allowances granted to Servants Travelling this Road on the Company's business, would exceed the certain and fixed expence for the Dawk Bearers as a comparison of this kind alone can ascertain the expediency of the Establishment in this point of view at least as being a saving to the Company.

47. When the Plan was first agitated, the late Governor General expressed his belief "that it would effect a diminution of Expense as

would appear by the Account of all Charges incurred by relays of occasional Bearers for the Commander in Chief, and other persons entrusted with Commissioners &c, if such were collected from the Accounts of the Cash and Provincial Councils in which they are dispersed". We could have wished such Account had been collected and laid before the Board when deliberating on the Plan, as we should not then have been at a loss in judging "whether the result of that deliberation was well founded or otherwise" from the most accurate Statement that can be collected from the Accounts received from your Presidency. We find however that the allowances for travelling Charges to and from Benares, Patna and Moorshedabad to the Civil Servants defrayed from the Cash, by the Buxey and Provincial Councils and every expence of the kind defrayed in the Military Department for the Commander in Chief & ca, from 1774 to 1778 being the four years immediately preceding the Establishment of the Dawk Bearers do not exceed on the Average Sa. Rups. 10,000 (ten thousand) P. Annum, the fixed Expence of that Establishment therefore instead of a Saving Appears to be an Increase of Sa. Rups. 8000 (eight thousand) P. Annum without taking into the account the occasional Allowances before noticed to Servants travelling to or from Benares & ca, granted while it existed—hence then it is evident that the expediency and utility of the Establishment must rest upon other grounds than those of it's being a saving of the contrary of which having been shewn to be the case, we see no cause for hesitation in directing it to be immediately annulled; We are however willing to allow you a latitude for continuing it or otherwise, as from a more minute investigation you may see occasion—but if you still abide by the first we are decidedly of opinion the service may be performed on a more economical Plan, and in this we are strengthened by the opinion the late Mr. Wheler expressed when the first proposals were given in.

48. We therefore direct that the expence for the Dawk Bearers be limited to Sa. Rs. 12000 (twelve thousand) P. Annum if you shall determine on the necessity of their being continued, and even then, we direct that the allowances for Travelling Charges to any of our Servants going to or coming from the several Stations on which they are laid be discontinued.

49. We observe by your Letter from the Secret Department of Inspection of the 9th January last, that you had not then resolved on the mode to be adopted in future for supplying the Hospital and Medicine Shop in Calcutta, instead of the present method which by our Orders of the 11th April 1785, we directed should be altered and which we trust has been done. We are the more convinced of the necessity for this by your above letter, whereby it appears the Surgeon General was indebted to the Company for Europe Medicines delivered him in no less a Sum than C. Rs. 54280-14-4 (fifty four thousand two hundred & eighty-fourteen-four) so that while he distributes these Medicines to the Surgeons and Assistants at the different Stations at 10 P. Cent profit, he is also indulged with withholding payment for the same to the Company and having the use of their money for a length of time a matter which cannot be allowed.

of at any rate, more particularly at a period when every Rupee owing to the Company, should be instantly discharged.

50. We have thought it necessary to be thus particular in the foregoing remarks, in order to convince you that we have a watchful eye on every [sic] the slightest deviation from our positive Orders we are aware of the latitude left to you by our Letter of the 21st September 1785, in forming the several Establishments of the Offices under your Government, and shall be always ready to pay every possible attention to any representation you make to us, on the Allowances, or Emoluments of our Servants employed therein, but the Instances we have here selected, for Animadversion are directly opposite to the precise line marked out for your guidance, respecting them in our Letter of 11th April 1785, and therefore could in no wise be passed unnoticed by us.

51. We received by the Winterton the List of the Establishments under the Civil Division of the General Department, as also a very complete List of Your Military Establishment, but you have omitted to send home those of your Marine and Commercial Establishments which will subject us to great inconvenience in forming the List of Establishments to be laid before Parliament pursuant to directions of the Act—And we expect the same will be carefully obviated in future, and that the last Ship of the season may regularly bring us a perfect List of all your Establishments made up to the 1st January in each year.

52. Having perused your Preceedings relative to the Pension of 1500 (one thousand five hundred) Rupees P. Month granted in May 1773 to Mr. Joseph Fowke, the reduction thereof in September 1785 to the Pension annexed to his rank, as a Senior Merchant and the Letter from Mr. Fowke, transmitted in your Dispatches of the 25th October 1785, requesting it to be restored to its original value, we hereby confirm the reduction, you have made therein.

53. For the reasons stated in the 20th [28th] Para : of your Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection, of the 24th March last, we acquiesce in the additional salary of 300 Rupees (three hundred) P. Month to the Persian Translator to enable him to execute our Orders of the 9th December 1784 (Para : 20) [28] for the transmission of the Persian Correspondence since 1781. But as soon as the object of those Orders shall be accomplished, the payment of this additional Salary must immediately cease, it being our unalterable determination, to abide by the several reductions ordered in the Lists which accompanied our Dispatches of the 11th April 1785, and to confine the expences of your Civil Department, as nearly, as possible, to what they were in 1776.

54. We cannot acquiesce in the construction you have put upon our Orders of the 11th April 1785, by which we directed the allowances to the Surgeon at Benares to be abolished, and as it was our intention that the Office should be entirely reduced, we disapproved the Salary of Rupees 10,275 (ten thousand two hundred & seventy five) P. Annum granted by you to Doctor Balfour on that

account, and direct the same to be forthwith discontinued; but we have no objection to his residing there, for his private practice.

55. As we have on former occasions taken every opportunity of expressing the satisfaction we had received from your spirit and zeal in carrying our retrenchments into execution—We are sorry in the present instance, to be obliged to remark, that as there is no ambiguity in our Order, the construction you have been induced to put upon it, is incompatible with that exemplary obedience to orders, which we had reason to expect from our Supreme Government.

56. The several applications from the Chaplains serving under your Presidency, respecting the incompetency of their allowances, have been attentively perused. From a review of the enormous increase of Expences in every Department, under your Presidency, compared with the Establishment in 1776, and from a thorough conviction that either the same must undergo a general reform, or the Company sink under their weight, we were induced to issue our Orders of the 11th April 1785 for their instant reduction.

57. Our Sentiments in this respect remain in full force, and have indeed been fortified by every circumstance which has since come under our consideration.—We therefore highly approve of your conduct in refusing without our authority, to give way to the representations of the Chaplains, strong as the grounds of them have appeared to you.—And although it is our intention to yield in part to your recommendation in favour of the Chaplains, we desire not to have it understood as warranting expectations of a similar nature, for such expectations, if entertained will be certainly disappointed. But when we consider that the order of Men from whom your Chaplains must be selected, ought to have a liberal, and expensive education, and cannot therefore enter early into our service, and when we further consider that they are cut off from the prospects of rise and emoluments to which our other Servants may look; and lastly when we consider that the excess of their allowances above our former Orders is amply repaid by having persons of liberal education and decent manners, to supply the situation of Chaplains under your Presidency, we authorize you to allow them in addition to their present stipends half of the Savings which accrued by the regulations of 1785. Their allowances will then stand as follows.

The 2 Chaplains to the Presidency	•	Sa. Rs.	10,410	P. Annum each
6 -do- to the Brigades	•	Sa. Rs.	7,147	-do-
1 -do- to the Garrison of Fort William	}		5,927	-do-

The Chaplain to the Brigade stationed beyond the Provinces is to draw an additional Allowance of St. Rs. 2,358 (two thousand three hundred & fifty eight) P. Annum.

58. In reply to the 51st Paragraph of your Letter of the 25th October 1785\*, We must observe that on permitting the Reverend Mr. Goddard, to proceed to Bengal as Chaplain to the Commander in Chief, it was not our intention to renew the appointment of Chaplain to the Army, which we had given directions to abolish nor can we consent to Mr. Goddard's receiving the Allowances of a Brigade Chaplain, which you have assigned to him, We however direct that if Mr. Goddard has not left Bengal with General Sloper, he be appointed to succeed to the first vacancy after the Gentleman already recommended, shall be provided for.

59. We have attended to your Proceedings of the 30th November 1785, relative to the Accountant General's Office and from the Statement they contained, we see no reason to doubt you have acted with propriety, in the Resolutions you then came to; but we must on this, as on former occasions, avoid giving Opinions on the particular steps of your progress, in the execution of our Orders for the adjustment of our Establishments. When the whole is reported to us, with your reasons in support of the particulars, we shall then give our opinion upon the extent of your labours, and make no doubt your assiduity and attention to the fair execution of our intentions, will entitle you to our hearty approbation.

60. We have referred to your Proceedings mentioned in your General Letter of the 7th March last Paragraph 16 @ 19 relative to the Suit commenced against you by Mr. William Atkinson, in consequence of his not having been appointed to the Office of Military Store-keeper and  
 This is against  
 suing the Council  
 not Company.\*\*  
 utterly astonished thereat as by the 1st section of the 21st Geo: the 3rd Cap 70 you are clearly exempted from the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for any thing done in your public capacity and acting as Governor General and Council—In case of any similar circumstance happening we would advise you, in support of the dignity of your Government, to apply to the Supreme Court, that the Attorney who may serve you with a Subpoena may be prevented practising in future, and we direct that any Company's Servant who may be a party to such a Suit or Action be dismissed from the Company's Service—And we further direct that Mr. Atkinson be order'd home, to answer for his conduct in this business.

61. In our Separate Letter of the 12th April last on the subject of Revenue, We authorized you to afford Mr. Gladwin every suitable assistance, encouragement, and support, in the laborious work he had undertaken, in translating the Ayeen Akburi.—We have since received your General Letter of the 31st December 1785, repeating your Solicitation that we would confirm your Subscription for 150 Sects—having the highest Opinion of the general utility of the work we acquiesce in your recommendation and direct that 100 Setts be transmitted to England—But we do not preceive any necessity for a separate Subscription on the part of the Board of Trade as proposed by them.

---

\* Secret Department of Inspection.

\*\*Remark in the margin is made only in the letter sent per Barwell.

62. Ever willing to afford our countenance and protection to such of our Servants as turn their attention to Persian Literature, we hereby direct, that you give every suitable encouragement to Mr. Joseph Champion in his Translation of Ferdosis's Heroic Poems, that he may be enabled to prosecute the work to its conclusion, and that you subscribe for 50 Copies, which are to be sent to England.

63. We approve of the encouragement given to Captain Kirkpatrick, in your agreeing to subscribe for 200 Copies of his Hindostani Grammar and Dictionary on the Company's Account, agreeably to the recommendation contained in our Letter of the 27th January 1785, and direct that they be sent to England so soon as the Work shall be completed.

64. We have lately had occasion to remark, that in the disposal of Posts & Employments in India, various Claims have been set up by Persons Senior in the Service to those who actually received the appointments—These Claims were founded on the 42nd Section of the Act of the 24th George the 3rd Cap: 25.—But you will have observed long since, that this Clause has, by the 14th Section of the 24th Geo: The 3rd Cap: 16,—been entirely new modelled.

65. Since we transmitted to you, in the 6th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 8th March 1786 our favorable sentiments and recommendation of Mr. Joseph Sherburne, you have transmitted to us a further Memorial from that gentleman—A perusal of this second Memorial has confirmed us in our Opinion of the peculiar hardship of his case, and of the propriety of our former directions in his behalf; which we therefore repeat and confirm.

66. Before we quit this subject, we must remind you of our repeated, though hitherto, in several instances, ineffectual Orders, that no person not actually in our Service should be permitted to hold any employment under the Company—You will observe however by the 13th Section of the last mentioned Act, that such appointments are for the future absolutely prohibited, it is therein enacted "That all vacancies happening in any of the Offices, Places or Employments in the Civil line of the Company's Service in India, (being under the degree of a Member of Council) shall be from time to time filled up and supplied from amongst the Servants of the said Company belonging to the Presidency wherein such vacancies shall respectively happen."

67. It is unnecessary for us to make any observations at present respecting the employment of Junior Servants in the different Offices, under the title of Extra Assistants, as advised in your Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 9th January 1786—We shall wait the arrival of the Establishments which you were directed to form in consequence of the late Act of Parliament, and of our Orders of the 21st September 1785, on the institution of the several Boards, therein directed.

68. And we have only further at present to bring to your recollection our Orders, that those Establishments of every denomination, be formed and reported to us upon the idea of a permanent Establishment, not a temporary one, formed with the view of finding

**Employments or Situations for Servants, whom our Orders of reduction, have put out of immediate employment.**

69. For the reasons stated in the 21st & 22nd Paragraphs of your General Letter of the 7th March last, we approve of the purchase of the Revd. Mr. Johnson's House at Sicca Rupees 90,000 (ninety thousand) to be converted into Public Offices. On a perusal however of your Proceedings relative to this Purchase; we are led to remark that on the first proposal being laid before you, on the 15th November 1785, you absolutely declined the purchase, but desired to know from Mr. Johnson the lowest Rent at which he would let the premises for one year—But instead of receiving an answer to this question, you agreed, on the 27th February following, to make the purchase without stating any reason for not abiding by your former resolution of the 19th December.

70. We are satisfied from the whole transaction, that your Change of opinion must have proceeded on the best motives, but it would have been right that they had appeared upon the face of your Proceedings; because it deprives us of all opportunity of judging, when this is not the case, and besides leaves an awkwardness upon our Records, incompatible with the Official regularity we wish to inculcate.—Indeed unless there is some urgent necessity to justify a contrary conduct, we would allow purchases of this nature only to be made, after stating to us the necessity of the measure and obtaining our previous consent & approbations. You will not be surprized at our caution in this respect, when you recollect how much of the Company's property has been from time to time, and on various pretences appropriated in similar purposes.

71. We have perused your proceedings relative to the purchase of a Bungaloe and 200 Begas of ground, in order to enlarge the Cantonments at Barrackpore.

72. In the perusal of those proceedings, we observe, that, in the month of April 1785, when Capt. Mackintire made his first proposition, you were of opinion there was no occasion to make the purchase—On the 1st August 1785, we observe that you were of a different Opinion—but you have not assigned to us the grounds either of the one opinion or the other, and of course have not enabled us to judge with any precision, whether you have done right or not in making the purchase—before therefore we can approve of your conduct herein, we must wait for an explicit opinion, with the reasons of it, upon this question, whether the purchase is of such essential use to the public Service, as to render it expedient to make it at the price, you have paid for it.

73. We have attended to your Letter of the 24th October relative to the 50,000 (fifty thousand) Sicca Rupees demanded from you by the Minister & Church Wardens at Madras, in behalf of the Native Poor at that place—we highly approve of the subscription of that sum made by you during the height of the War, and when the distresses of that Settlement, by the calamity of famine<sup>s</sup> loudly called for such interposition.

74. It may be true, that by the amount of private subscriptions the necessity of the remittance of this 50,000 (fifty thousand) Sicca Rupees may be greatly lessened, but still we are of Opinion, it ought to be remitted for its original purpose, for as it was subscribed expressly with the Idea of encouraging individuals to do so, it might on future occasions, bring a diffidence on public engagements if in this instance, the public promise, was not faithfully performed.

75. Whatever aid our Servants at Bencoolen may stand in need of, for defraying the expences of that Settlement, we think it necessary to direct, in order to prevent as much as possible the drain of Specie from Bengal, that the same be afforded them in such Articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Bengal as may find a speedy & profitable Sale on the West Coast & the better to enable you to judge thereof, you should require from them the best information they can possibly procure, respecting the quantity, quality & price of Bengal Goods that may be annually disposed of there on the Company's Account—and you should likewise furnish them by every opportunity, with the prices Current of Goods in Bengal. This mode of supply will, we conceive be both acceptable to our servants at Bencoolen, and beneficial to the Company, and tend also to the prosperity of our Possessions in Bengal—We therefore wish the same to be adopted, as far as it may be practicable in your remittances to our other Settlements.

76. We have taken a view of your proceedings since the expiration of the Contract with Mr. Belli, relative to keeping up a Depot of Victualling Stores in the Garrison of Fort William—and most heartily concur with you in applauding the conduct of Mr. Belli, whose fidelity and assiduity in the discharge of his duty, is fully proved by the circumstances brought forward to our Notice, in the 63rd Paragraph of your General Letter of the 10th December 1784.

77. We agree with you in the necessity of keeping a regular and continued Supply of Provisions at Fort William, to answer any particular emergency; at the same time we wish to render the same as little expensive as possible.—We conceive that the frugality or exorbitancy of that expence depends in a great measure on the mode in which those Supplies are provided.—We see no reason to doubt that the measures you have taken, as stated in your different Letters and Consultations, have been directed to that object but as you observe, that a reduction of the former expence in supplying Fort William with an annual Store of Provisions, can only be made by regular and gradual experiments, we expect now that you have had the benefit of more experience and have examined the Subject to the bottom, you have come to a decision upon it, and will with your first convenience report it to us, together with the reasons which have induced you ultimately to form that decision.

78. One observation it is impossible for us not to make upon the whole of what you have laid before us.—The Garrison Storekeeper is not only to receive a Commission of 8 P. Cent on furnishing the necessary articles, but also a like Commission on such Stores as it may be deemed necessary to dispose of; we are therefore naturally

led to ask wherein is the check established, either to prevent his not urging you to purchase from time to time a greater quantity of stores than may be really necessary, or in the proper case of the Stores when purchased, so as they may not be again disposed of, on growing unserviceable; before it would be otherwise necessary so to do.

79. By this Observation, we do not mean to cast the most distant reflection on the conduct of your present Garrison Storekeeper, Mr Plowden—we only wish to draw your attention more closely to the subject, which we hereby direct you to revise, with a reference to our former sentiments thereon, as contained in our General Letter of the 23rd December 1778—And as the keeping a constant supply of Provisions sufficient for the support of 3000 (Three thousand) Europeans and 9000 (Nine Thousand) Native Troops for 3 Months, must unavoidably be attended with no inconsiderable expence, such a mode must be adopted, whether by Contract or otherwise as will confine that expence, within the narrowest bounds consistently with the good of the Service to be performed.—We are furnished with a regular Estimate of the quantity of Provisions necessary to form this Depot, but are unacquainted with the actual Charges thereof (tho' we observe General Clavering estimated them generally in January 1777, at 3 (three) Lacks of Rupees which we hereby direct may accompany your Advices on this subject, so soon as the same shall have undergone the revision herein recommended—A correct knowledge of this Expence will likewise enable us to judge of the reasonableness or unreasonableness of the percentage now given to the Storekeeper, of which we are not at present competent to form an accurate opinion, tho' we are inclined to think that 8 P. Cent is too high a Commission, and that 5 P. Cent would be amply sufficient.—For the same reason you must state to us the yearly average produce of such of the Stores as are from time to time resold.

80. The Loan of 40,000 (forty thousand) Sicca Rupees for 10 years at 2½ (Two and an half) P. Cent P. Annum to the late Mr. Page Keble as advised in the 13th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 7th of March last, has come under our consideration, as it is contrary to the orders contained in the 57th Paragraph of our Letter of the 27th May 1779, We are not sufficiently informed of its necessity to give it our approbation—to the work, so far as we can judge, seems to be of public utility, but it is no where stated, that such a Loan was necessary to enable Mr. Keble to prosecute it; on the contrary his Canal was finished, and, by his own account, was making ample returns for his labour—but if it was proper at all to apply any of our Funds to this undertaking we rather wish you had taken the property from him altogether, upon the terms offered by him, than engaged with him in the shape of a Loan, which did not afford much prospect of being repaid, and we suspect the prospect is much diminished by the death of Mr. Keble,—In this situation we are of opinion that you should still take steps for vesting the property of the Canal in our own hands, and give charge of it to the Comptroller of the Salt Revenue, with whose Province it seems to be materially connected; or if it can be accomplished, it would be more agreeable

to us, if it could be rented to one or more Individuals, who would act under such regulations as you should prescribe, but who at the same time would be at the whole expence of cleaning and keeping in repair the work executed by Mr. Keble.

81. In reply to the 52nd Paragraph of your General Letter dated the 25th October 1785, we are to observe, that when our Orders were given for the medicines which were put up in the Season 1783 we concluded that two thirds of the Supplies annually sent out, when the Army was on a war establishment, would have been sufficient in every respect for your demands in time of Peace, the circumstance of the arrival of the King's Troops at Calcutta, as noticed in your Surgeon General's Letter was an event, which we could not be expected to provide for and altho' we might have in contemplation the early return of the several Bengal Detachments, the expected reductions in the Army were taken into the account and upon the whole we considered that we had furnished you with supplies in a very liberal manner. However in consequence of your pressing recommendation, the Indents for Medicines will now be fully complied with in every respect, such Drugs only excepted, which are either the produce of the East Indies, or can be purchased there better, and on cheaper terms than in Europe, and the several Tinctures and other preparations to be made from those Drugs. But as the purchase of Medicines, Instruments and Utensils in England is attended with a very considerable expence, we hope at the time we express our willingness to furnish those articles in such proportions as may be adequate to your occasions, that you will order your Surgeon General to regulate his demands with economy, and not to indent in larger proportions, than all circumstances duly considered, and proper allowances being made for Contingencies, shall appear to be absolutely necessary.—The reasons which induced us to repeat our orders for returning the Surgeon's Instruments to be repaired and which you represent to be impracticable, were founded on a Letter from a former Surgeon General, who expressed himself in the following words "I am preparing a quantity of old Instruments to be sent by the next Ship which by an Instrument Maker in Europe can easily be render'd as good as ever."

82. In the 74th Paragraph of your beforementioned Letter, you request that the Supplies from hence for the Naval and Ordnance Departments may be separately invoiced, but as we have not this year received an Indent for Military Stores no distinction can now be made in the Invoices, but upon future occasions your recommendation shall be attended to.

83. We very much disapprove of your having recommended it to the President & Council of Fort St. George, as mentioned in the 2nd Paragraph of your Secret Letter of the 30th June last, to defray the expence of Sir John Dalling's Passage to England. Although we ourselves, for very particular reasons have consented to allow that Gentleman a specific sum on account of his Passage Money yet the same must on no account be consider'd as a precedent; we likewise disapprove of your resolution for defraying the expence of the Passage to Europe of such Officers, as may be retiring upon half pay.

84. We observe what you have stated in Paragraph 23rd, in consequence of what was intimated to you by the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature; that subject, with others relative to the expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature, will be under our early consideration and our sentiments will then be conveyed to you.

85. We have received your letter in the public Department of the 3rd July last—we are sorry to learn from your late Dispatches that in your Opinion the amount of our debts in India, which will be subscribed according to the terms of our proposed Plan will be inconsiderable—But we do not think it necessary to give you any further directions on the subject until we receive your Dispatches subsequent to the expiration of the extended time within which, the Creditors were allowed to accept of the Offers which we had made to them.

86. We will however observe on some points in which we have reason to believe, that our Plan has been misunderstood in India.—It is stated that the Creditors have objected to our proposals, as holding out no greater degree of security for the payment of their Debts, than that which they enjoyed before; as not offering to them any definite period of payment, and as not allowing them, in the interim, a reasonable rate of Interest.

87. But these objections are by no means founded—The Bills to be drawn upon us in pursuance of this Plan are sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, in virtue of the Powers vested in them by Law for that purpose, and are to be charged on the general property of the Company both at home and abroad.

88. The Plan gave to the Company a power of not paying the Bills immediately after they became due, that is, in 548 days after date, but it pledged them in that case to pay the whole within ten years from March 1790 by yearly Instalments of 10 (ten) P. Cent,—This time was taken, with a view of allowing for unforeseen events, which might prevent the discharge of those Bills in a much shorter period, and which the present state of our Affairs seems to promise, but the certainty of the whole being discharged within the space abovementioned, cannot on any just principle but be considered, as a considerable advantage to your Creditors, and in the interim, the Company have bound themselves to pay interest on the Bills at 5 (five) P. Cent by half yearly payments; which is a rate considerably higher than could be made in the present state of the Funds on money remitted to England in any other mode.—The Company's Bonds bear at this time an Interest only of four P. Cent, and yet are at a considerable premium.

89. When these several considerations shall have been coolly and attentively weighed, we think it probable that a great part of the Creditors may be induced to subscribe, and the rather as this step has been taken by many of the Persons in this Country who are interested in our Debts abroad.—In the meantime we see no reason to object to the exchange of the Pagoda being reckoned at 7 Shillings.

and the Bombay Rupee at 1 Shilling and eleven pence for the Bills you may have occasion to draw upon us on that Account—And this will serve as a reply to your said Letter so far as to the 15th Paragraph.

90. We approve of the arrangements mentioned in the 16th, 17th 18th, and 19th Paragraphs for the formation of the several Boards in consequence of our Orders of the 21st September 1785.—But in the nomination of the Members of your Board, to preside over the several Departments, a due attention must be had, to the peculiar fitness of one Individual over another for superintending any particular Department.—We cannot give a better explanation of our meaning herein, than by directing that upon Mr. Shore's succeeding to the Council General, he be appointed to preside over the Revenue Department, that the Company may have the full benefit of the knowledge, which he so eminently possesses in this important branch of their concerns.—As the following Paragraphs of your Letter in the Public Department relate only to the Investment, they will be replied to under the head of Commercial Department, and under which head you ought to have addressed them to us, in conformity to the directions contained in our beforementioned Letter of the 21st of September 1785.

91. We have received a Letter from our late Governor General dated 5th July 1786, with a Postscript of the 12th of the same Month.

92. As that Letter does no more than allude in a very general way, to some of the leading transactions of your Administration of which we have had occasion to treat in detail, and to mark either with our approbation, or disapprobation, in the course of our Correspondence, and does not come addressed to us from any of the Departments under which we have arranged that correspondence, we should not have thought it necessary to advert to it; but we are induced to do so, from some expressions in this and former Letters, but particularly so in the postscript of the 12th July. And our object in doing so, is merely to guard against an idea gaining ground in our Councils abroad, as if Persons, who by resignations or deaths had arrived at the Office of Governor General *without any special appointment for that purpose*, were to conceive that, by accident, they had obtained any right to remain in that situation. If any such idea has prevail'd, it is an erroneous conception, and we trust it will never prevail again.—For in the choice of a Governor General, there are many qualifications to be considered, which we may not conceive to be equally essential ingredients in the choice of the subordinate Members of Council.—An appointment therefore to the latter is not of itself to be looked upon as affording any pretensions to the Acquirement of the former.

93. The line drawn by the several Acts of Parliament respecting the Office of Governor General is clearly this, that the Senior Member of the Council shall succeed to, and hold the Office upon any Vacancy, until our pleasure is known, but the moment the appointment of a new Governor General takes place, the Power of the temporary Governor General ceases, to which we shall at all times expect a ready compliance without regard to the distinction as to notification

of the Appointment being first made by Letter, or by the more formal mode of a Commission under the Company's Seal.<sup>4</sup>

94. We have permitted Mr. Alexander Russell to return to his Station of Assistant Surgeon on your Establishment.

95. Having received a Letter from Dr. Hawes, Secretary to the Humane Society in London, Accompanying fifty tracts of that society, also two Drags and Apparatus for the purpose of recovering Persons apparently drowned, or lost by other causes of suffocation, we have resolved to divide the said tracts, Drags and apparatus between your Presidency and that of Fort St. George, that the Drags and apparatus may serve as Patterns for making others. And being highly sensible of the beneficial consequences which the Community has already experienced, and expect to result from so benevolent an institution, and that the laudable views of the Society deserve suitable encouragement, we hereby recommend the said institution to your particular notice. A Copy of Dr. Hawes's Letter you will receive herewith.\*

96. Having remarked that the expence to the Company for Stationery, has of late increased in a very great degree, and the large purchases made therefore in India, having in particular excited our surprize, we have considered it expedient to make a general and minute investigation into the expenditure of Stationery.

97. In consequence of this investigation we have effected a considerable reduction in the prices which have hitherto been paid by the Company for Stationery purchased in England. and also in the Demands of stationery for home use.

98. The diminution of the expence at present effected, though great, is nevertheless but small, compared, with the diminution that may be further expected, provided the Orders we shall give to our several Presidencies on this subject be duly attended to, and we confidently trust they will be, on our pointing out the prodigious loss sustained by the Company from the Purchases of Stationery made in India, and the manifest necessity of adopting some check to the superfluous demands which appear to be made thereof.

99. Upon representations from the Commercial Department at your Presidency, that the proportion of Stationery allotted them to the general supply, did not answer their occasions, and that they had in consequence been obliged to make purchases of this article at an advanced price, we were induced agreeably to their request, to consign to them in the year 1779/80 a separate supply.

100. Separate Consignments of Stationery were also made to that Department in the years 1780/1 & 1781/2, but it having been conceived from the title given to the several Indents which have been since that time received from your *General Department*, that they included the expenditure in the Commercial Department, and the increase of the quantities indented for, having tended to confirm this Idea, no separate Supply to that Department has therefore been

\*See *Hon: Public Letters From Court*, Vol. 33, 1787-88, pp. 69-70.

considered necessary in the 4 years last past—To our surprise however we now find, that the several Indents supposed to include the expenditure in the Commercial Department, were formed from the Issues to the General and Revenue Departments only, and that from the time we ceased to make separate Consignments of stationery, to the Commercial Department, their Supplies of this Article have been purchased by themselves at very exorbitant prices, with a Commission of 15 (fifteen) P. Cent allowed thereon; and hence we remark that notwithstanding a General Agent has been appointed by your Board, for the Supply of Stationery, the Commercial Board have employed a separate Agent to provide Stationery for the use of their Department.

101. Upon retrospect to the Consignments of Stationery to your General Department in the 5 years from 1779/80 to 1783/4 it appears that in one or two of the said years the quantities in general even exceeded the issues to the General and Revenue Departments, in those years—from which the Indents were formed, and that deducting from our Consignments the supply we remark to have been made from the General Store to the Commercial Department in 1782/3 the quantities on the whole consigned to your General Department in the above 5 years were so very little short of the quantities indented for, that the annual average amount of the Deficiency according to the prices paid here, was not at most more than £200 (two hundred pounds).

102. We notwithstanding find that the purchases of Stationery, in your General Department in the 5 years from 1780/1 to 1784/5 including the Charges and Commission paid thereon, amount on an average of the said 5 years, to no less than the annual Sum of £ 5739 (five thousand seven hundred and thirty nine) valuing the Current Rupee at 2s/1d (two shillings and one Penny) only, and deducting from the purchases the amount of the Issues to the Commercial Department, from the General Store in 1780/1 which we suppose to have been made out of your purchases in that year, prior to the arrival of our separate supply to the said Department, consigned from England in the year preceding.

103. The very large purchases made in the Commercial Department in the year 1783/4 & 1784/5 we remark with equal astonishment.

104. Upon examining into the expenditure of Stationery in that Department a few years back, we have observed, that the whole of their Supplies of this Article in the year 1779/80 were furnished out of our Consignments to your General Department, and that the Invoice amount thereof at the late prices paid here, was no more than £ 501 (five hundred and one pounds) or Current Rupees 4810 (four thousand eight hundred & ten) being 682 (six hundred & eighty two) Rupees less than the Commission alone, paid on the purchases of stationery in the said Department, in the year 1784/5, which, including the Commission amount to C. Rs. 42,105 (fortytwo thousand, one hundred & five) or £ 4,386 Sterling (four thousand three hundred and eighty six).

105. In making this comparison between the difference of the expence of this article in the Commercial Department, we have instanced, the amount of their supplies in the year 1779/80, finding that no part thereof was purchased in India, and further, on remarking that the quantities supplied that Department, in the preceeding year, were not on the whole, much greater, from which it may be inferred, that there could be no large Remains on hand, at the Commencement of the year 1779/80 and that the Supplies in that year, were adequate to the Consumption.

106. Such we remark is the prodigious encrease of the expence of stationery for the Use of your Presidency, that the purchases in the General & Commercial Departments in the year 1784/5 amounting together to C. Rs. 105,900 (one hundred & five thousand nine hundred) or £ 11,030 (eleven thousand & thitry) added to the Cost of the Stationery consigned to you from England in the year 1783/4 makes the expense for one year only, the enormous Sum of £ 13,920 (thirteen thousand nine hundred and twenty) which exceeds the amount of your last *General Indent*, taken from the Issues of 1778/9 by £ 11,390 (eleven thousand, three hundred & ninety) according to the present prices paid here, allowing for a purchase made in that year in the Commercial Department, not included in the said Indent.

107. From the very large amount of your purchases we have been led to examine into the difference between the cost of Stationery in Bengal and in England, and find that the amount of the Stationery purchased in your General Department in the 5 years from 1778/9 to 1782/3, Commission & ca included, turns out considerably more than three times the present cost in England with the usual advance & charges thereon.

108. A much greater difference, we find to exist between the cost of the Stationery purchased in the Commercial Department in the years 1783/4 & 1784/5, and the valuation thereof at the prices paid here, the former exceeding the latter, in the proportion of 4½ (four and an half) to 1 (one), prices full as exorbitant, we suppose to have been paid for the stationery, purchased in your General Department. in the same two years, but of this, we can know nothing certain, as the particulars of the purchases are not yet in our Possession.

109. Various Articles of Stationery we have observed have been occasionally purchased by the Naval Storekeeper at your Presidency in the course of 5 years from 1778/9 to 1782/3, and the quantities having usually been very small, we should have imagined if any difference existed between the prices of his purchases, and the purchases, made in your General Department, the former would have been the highest, but on the contrary it appears, that the prices paid by the Naval Storekeeper have in many instances been much the lowest.

110. We cannot pass over this circumstance without requiring you to make enquiry, into the cause of the difference we have noticed in the said prices, and unless the parties shall produce to you, satisfactory vouchers for the prices which have been paid, we direct,

that you will call on them to refund, whatever may appear to have been improperly charged the Company and in case they should refuse to refund the same, you must immediately institute Suits against them for the recovery thereof—and the result of your enquiries into this matter must be communicated to us the first opportunity.

111. Another circumstance which we have remarked, and that appears to us equally extraordinary, is, that in several years in which very large purchases have been made of Stationery, and at very high prices the Company is charged with a loss on the State of Stationery sold at Public outcry.

112. In your Books of 1780/1 we find the Account of a quantity of Stationery sold in that year particularly stated.

The Cost appears to have been Curr <sup>t</sup> Rupees	1541
The sale produce	315
and the loss	Curr <sup>t</sup> , Rupees 1226

No mention is made of the stationery so sold having been damaged; and hence arises our surprise, at the loss resulting from these Sales.

113. We cannot likewise avoid expressing our surprise at the large purchases which have been made of English Sealing Wax, the Bengal Sealing Wax, being not only of a superior quality but of a lower price than is paid for this article here.

114. From the Facts we have stated must be sufficiently evinced, not only the prodigious loss which the Company sustain from the purchase of Stationery at your Presidency, but as well, the superfluous and improper demands made thereof.

115. We rely therefore on your immediately adopting some measure to prevent as far as may be possible all improper demands of this article in future. At the same time, we prohibit in the most positive terms, the purchasing of any Stationery hereafter, at your Presidency for the Company's Use, except when from unforeseen circumstances or unavoidable accidents you may be under the absolute and indispensable necessity of so doing, and if ever such necessity should occur, we direct that the purchases be made, by the Accountant to the General department, for the time being, and that no Commission be allowed thereon. And we further direct that an Account of all such purchases drawn out agreeable to a Form which makes a Number in the Packet,\* be transmitted with your annual Indent.

116. We must here remark that no Indent of Stationery has been received from your Presidency since that dated the 28th of February 1784, taken from the Issues in 1782/3, from which, we conceive it may have been intended to establish the said Indent, as a standing one.

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 33, 1787-88, pp. 67-68.

117. Under proper Regulations with respect to your expenditure of Stationary, we are of opinion, your Indents can not be formed on better grounds than the issues to your several Departments, but as from the great difference we have observed in the annual Issues, we cannot approve of your establishing a standing Indent on the Issues of any particular year, we direct, that an Indent of stationary be sent from your Presidency, in every year as formerly, and likewise an Account of your Receipts, Issues and Remains of Stationary, in the year preceding, and that the same be always conveyed to us by the first ship of the Season.

118. From the 15th Paragraph of our Letter to you of 24th Feb'y 1786, you will have observed that the Indent above mentioned, has been considered by us as a General Indent, and although, we are now in doubt whether it has not been meant, to establish the said Indent, as an annual Indent of the necessary supply, for the use of the General & Revenue Departments only, yet it being a much larger Indent than your Indents, in former years, when they included the annual expenditure in the Commercial Department, our displeasure will therefore be much excited if the Supply of Stationary consigned to you last year agreeably to the said Indent, should not have been made to serve the occasions of every Department.

119. We approve of your having sent a Report on the Contents of the several Chests of Stationary consigned to you in the year 1784/5, and direct that in every year a Report of this nature be regularly transmitted with your Indent.

120. Agreeably to the order of your Board of 19th of December 1785, some notice should have been taken of the said Report in the first General Letter to us, subsequent to that date, but no mention do We find on the subject thereof, in any Letter we have received from you.

121. We are much surprized that such numerous mistakes, as are specified in the said Report, should have occurred in packing the stationary, and that so large a quantity of Paper should have been found damaged.

122. The Person who supplies the Company with Stationary for the use of your Presidency has been made acquainted therewith, and we trust that all possible care will be taken by him, that no such mistakes be made in future, and that the Paper be thoroughly dried before it is packed.

123. The lining of the Chests with Copper, appearing to be useless expence, the Stationary consigned to you this year is therefore packed in strong single chests as formerly.

124. The supply we have sent you, is very nearly the same as last year.—A greater supply we have declined sending, under a strong persuasion grounded upon the examination we have made into the expenditure of Stationary at your Presidency some few years past, that it must be more than sufficient to answer the occasions of every

Department, admitting at the same time, that, there may be a considerable increase of your necessary Demands.

125. If nevertheless we should be mistaken in our Opinion on this point, we direct that your Indents, in future, be made for such quantities as with economical management, you may deem fully requisite for that purpose.

126. We shall conclude our Orders and Observations on this subject, with repeating our reliance on your immediate adoption of some measure to check the superfluous demands, which appear to be made of Stationary at your Presidency, and provided this be effectually done, we trust, you will find the supply we have sent you, to be more than necessary for one year's use.

127. Our Auditor's Letter containing his Remarks on the Books and Accounts of your Presidency, goes a Number in the Packet\* to which we direct you give every attention required.

128. Messrs David Cuming and John Stonhouse have obtained our leave to return to their Rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency.

129. The recent and melancholly loss of the Ship Montagu, added to the several fatal accidents which have of late years happened on board Our Ships by Fire, rendering it highly necessary to prevent if possible the like calamities in future we have particularly enforced our former Orders to the Commanders of our Ships, and added such further regulations respecting the drawing off Spirits as we hope will be a sufficient preventative of that evil in future, and if any of the Officers of our Ships shall neglect to conform to the said regulations, we have directed our Commanders to remove such persons instantly from their Stations, entering such Proceedings in their Log Book, and advising us of the same by the first opportunity that the conduct of such Officers may be examined into, and determined on by us or such of our Governors and Councils, or Council of Supra Cargos, at the place where their ships may then happen to be, or shall first arrive at—Our Regulations at large, will appear in the Commander's Instructions, to which, we direct your attention.

#### Secret Department

130. We have perused your Proceedings relative to the expences incurred by the Company, on account of the late appointment of Mr. Richard Johnson to be Resident on the part of your Government at the Court of the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn, and are much hurt at the enormous amount thereof.—By the abstract Statement of these Charges, as prepared by your Civil Paymaster, and entered on your Secret Consultations of the 1st March 1785, it appears, that from the 20th January 1784, the day of Mr. Johnson's appointment, to the 31st December following a period of little more than eleven months, they amounted to the prodigious Sum of Curr't Rups. 2,71,064 (two Lacs seventy one thousand & sixty four)—you acted very properly on the production of the beforementioned account, in immediately resolving on Mr. Johnson's recal.

131. In our Separate Letter of the 11th April 1785, we gave you a latitude, respecting the appointment of Residents at the several Eastern Courts; but required you at the same time to confine the charges thereof with the most economical bounds.—Upon an inspection of Mr. Johnson's Accounts, we feel it more incumbent upon us than ever, to repeat and enforce this injunction, which we now do in the most urgent and positive manner.—Some Rule or Standard must be adopted, by which not only these, but also, all other disbursements are to be regulated, or we shall wish in vain to see a period to the Company's pecuniary embarrassments.—We therefore direct, that you take the subject under your immediate consideration.

132. It is suggested in the Accountant General's Letter of the 2nd February last, entered on your Secret Consultation of the 14th that as much the greater part of the expence of the Negotiations carried on between your Government, and the Native Powers has been left at the discretion of the executive members, and as the presents made, are sometimes charged for in the Governor General's Accounts, Mr. Larkins expresses a wish, that the whole expence of Ambassadors, should also appear in them, as being defrayed thro' the Governor General, urging as a reason, that it is extremely difficult to collect together the whole of the expence of these charges, or the expence of any particular Embassy, these being at present charged for, some in one Officer's Account, and some in another.—We do not find that you have come to any Resolution on Mr. Larkins's proposition.—For our own parts we shall acquiesce in any modification, that may tend to bring the whole of the expences completely before us in one view, that we may be the easier enabled to examine, check and controul them—And as we are fully determined to cause the most minute inspection to be made from time to time, into this and every other branch of our expenditure, We shall expect to receive the Accounts in every Department made up in the clearest and most explicit manner—Our Officers at home would be greatly facilitated in the execution of this important duty, if all the Accounts of monthly disbursements, which are reported to your Board, were regularly enter'd in a separate Book under distinct heads, with a reference to the Consultation on which they were reported to you, and we direct that you observe this method in future.

133. In reply to the 61st Para. of your Letter in the Secret Department, of the 28th February last, we shall only observe, that if it appeared really necessary, on account of the Mutiny which happened in the Corps attached to the Person of the Prince Mirza Jewan Buckt<sup>s</sup> that an European Officer should be placed about His Highness' Person, we think that an Officer belonging to your own Establishment ought to have been selected for the purpose—without meaning to cast the smallest reflection on the Character & conduct of Capt: Granby Sloper, whom you appointed to this Service, we must observe that he was taken from his duty upon the Coast at the particular desire of General Sloper, that he might act as his Aid du Camp; and when we yeilded to the General's request herein, we had not the least Idea that any Command would be conferred on his Relation in preference to your own provincial Officers, but that it was really

intended he should continue to act in the sole capacity, for which he was originally selected, that of the General's Aid du Camp—We therefore direct that Capt. Sloper be relieved from his present employ—And if any such appointment is at all necessary, it be filled by an Officer, serving under your Presidency, whom the Commander in Chief, may think best qualified for it.

134. With regard to the permission given to Captain Norman Macleod (as advised in the same Para) to reassume the command of the Battalion at Lucknow such a step can only be approved under the Idea, that such reassumption was necessary for the security of the Peace of Lucknow, and the Company's Accounts and Cash there.—But at the same time we must remind you of the Stipulations, and Arrangements made with the Vizier by our late Governor General Mr. Hastings, and caution you against any infringement of the agreement concluded between them, without the voluntary consent and approbation of the Vizier himself; lest one innovation should be productive of another, and at length the Vizier's Affairs be exposed to the same embarrassments from which it was the object of the late Treaty entirely to relieve him. And, with a due attention to those considerations, you will reconsider this measure.

135. In our Letter of the 14th March last Paragraphs 13 @ 18 we took a general view of the State of the Province of Benares, and communicated to you such directions, as we then thought it necessary to give, on that important Subject.—From a perusal of the Advices and Records since received from your Presidency, we have nothing to add to those directions upon the general Affairs of that valuable Province.—We have however perused with great attention your late and former Proceedings relative to the outstanding balances due from the Zemindar, on account of the Revenues of former years, and to the deductions which are to be made from the total amount of the Tribute of 40 (forty) Lacks of Rupees, in consequence of the stipulations and Agreements made with the Rajah by Mr. Hastings in the years 1781 and 1784, and approve of your conduct herein.

136. We observe that the Rajah estimates these deductions at 2,11,759 (two Lacs eleven thousand seven hundred & fifty nine) Rupees, and that you had admitted to the amount of 1,43,372 (one Lac, forty three thousand three hundred and seventy two) reserving the rest for future examination. But it will be much more satisfactory to us to fix on a certainty the sum which the Company expect to realize from this Zemindarry.—This likewise may be a means of preventing future disagreeable altercations with the Rajah and his Naib, relative to the amount of the deductions. We therefore direct that after you shall have ascertained the amount, according to the most liberal constructions of the several Stipulations made between Mr. Hastings, and the Rajah in 1781 and 1784 and the grants which it was thought expedient to make at the latter period, you make a fixed reduction in the annual amount of his Tribute in proportion thereto, unless objections may arise in your minds to the measure, which do not at present occur to us.

137. We are very much concerned at your having been driven to the necessity, since the appointment of the present Rajah, to remove two successive Naibs, on account of maladministration<sup>6</sup>—Whether the subsequent regulations formed by Mr. Hastings in 1784, in the establishment of an Aumeen or Inspector, to assist the Naib in the execution of his Office, and in the restoration of the Office of Canongo in the several Districts, have remedied the defect, we are unable to determine, not having received a regular report of the effect of those regulations since they have been issued—should they have failed of their intended purpose, it may be advisable to advert to the system of management practiced in the time of Bulwant Sing, as mentioned in Mr. Hastings's Letter to Mr. Markham of the 29th September 1782, and enter'd on your Secret Consultations, of the 4th December following, by which it appears, that distinct Offices, for distinct purposes, were established, independent of each other, with proper Men at the head of each, so that one Office might detect or prevent any abuses, or irregularities in the others, and together form a system of reciprocal checks—But without giving you any precise directions herein, we can only recommend the Subject to your consideration.

138. We have likewise perused your Proceedings relative to the appointment of Mr. James Grant to be Resident at Benares, on the resignation of Mr. Fowke, and upon the principle laid down in the 162nd Paragraph of our Letter of the 12th April 1786, we approve thereof, he having been recommended for that appointment by the Governor General; and we rely very much in Mr. Grant's promised exertions for the realization of the balances of former Years, and the regular discharge of the Current Tribute without distressing the Country.—We have not received Mr. Grant's Historical account of the Revenues of this Province mentioned in your Secret Consultations of 25th January last,—we therefore direct that you furnish us with a Copy thereof by the first conveyance.

139. By your Secret Consultation of the 9th March last we observe that Mr. Pellegrin Treves has been appointed Assistant to the Resident at Benares.—But as Mr. Treves is the youngest Writer upon your Establishment, we disapprove of the same, and direct that the appointment be conferred on some other Person, whose length of service may better entitle him thereto.

140. We were advised in your Letter in the Secret Department of the 9th January 1786, of your having dispatched a very intelligent Native, named Meer Mahomed Hussein,<sup>7</sup> to Hyderabad, for the purpose of obtaining information of the Political transactions of that Court.—When we consider that the applications to your Government from the Peshwa and Nana Furnese for Military Aid against the Hostile Attempts of Tippoo Sultaun, were transmitted thro the Soubah of the Decan, we agree with you in opinion of the absolute necessity of having some person upon the spot, thoroughly acquainted with the Policy of the Southern Courts, to communicate to you the earliest intelligence of every material occurrence.—You were no doubt possessed of the highest opinion of Sied Hussein's integrity, as well as his abilities, previous to your sending him on so important

a deputation.—But whenever the general situation of things shall become really serious and important, we had rather trust to the zeal of one of our own Servants, than to the supposed attachment of any Native whomsoever.

141. We find likewise on perusing your Consultations, that on the 1st March 1785, when Mr. Johnson was recalled from Hydrabad, you agreed to employ Mr. George Biddle, at Mr. Johnson's recommendation, in transmitting from time to time, such intelligence as might be useful for your information, at the Salary of 500 (five hundred) Rupees P. Month.—We have read Mr. Biddle's Letter to your Board of the 5th January 1785, and from the various Stations he has filled under the different Country Powers, make no doubt of his being able to render you Service, in the manner you have pointed out.—Altho' we do not mean to convey an impression unfavourable to Mr. Biddle, who is an utter stranger to us, yet we nevertheless think great caution is necessary in the degree of confidence which ought to be put in such Persons, who can be considered in no other light than as mere Adventurers, and of whose real character you must be entirely ignorant. For our own parts, from the testimonies in his behalf, as they stand upon your Records, we are inclined to think favorably of Mr. Biddle; and considering the great importance of receiving authentic intelligence, should have no objection to his being occasionally employed in that way, and to his being rewarded in proportion to the services he may render to the Company, but nothing has been stated to convince us of the necessity of his receiving a settled salary of 500 (five hundred) Rupees P. Month, and to reside at Hydrabad especially as you have since deputed Meer Mahomed Hussein for the very purpose for which you deemed Mr. Biddle so peculiarly qualified.

142. We have thought it proper to give you our Sentiments on these appointments, as they occur to us upon the materials in our possession.—At the same time we are perfectly aware that in the appointment of Persons employed at the Courts of any of the Indian Powers, much must rest with the discretion of the Supreme Government on the spot, and it is not our intention by any thing we have said, to curtail that discretion.—we have a perfect confidence that it will be faithfully, honorably and beneficially exercised.

143. With regard to the pension of 1500 one thousand five hundred Rupees P. Month said to have been granted to Meer Mahomed Hussein by the Vizier, we shall not write to you more particularly at present, intending to lay the materials you have transmitted to us, before our late Governor General Mr. Hastings, who from the representations of all parties, must be able to give us satisfactory information on the Subject.

144. We cannot omit here to observe, that no notice has been taken of Mr. Biddle's appointment in any of your Letters to the Court of Directors, you must therefore be more careful in future to keep us constantly advised of every appointment, and the reasons thereof.

145. We have attentively perused all your Proceedings relative to the grant from the King of Quida, to the Company of the Island of Pinang, in the Streights of Malacca, and approve of your Resolution to take possession thereof.—We likewise approve of your caution in not incurring much expence until you shall be fully informed & have received the best light relative to the Island and Harbour. But we do not think it necessary to be more explicit, until we hear further from you upon the subject.

146. We have received your Secret Letter of the 30th June 1786 the Paragraphs 1st, 3rd, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th & 26th of the above Letter either require no particular answer, or it can only with propriety be given after the arrival of the Packet, which your recent Dispatches give us reason daily to expect.—The 2nd and 23rd Paragraphs are answer'd under the head of Public Department.

147. We must observe, that, we see no reason why any of the subjects, treated of, in the Paragraphs to which we have just adverted, should have been addressed to us from your Secret Department.

148. With regard to all the other Paragraphs of the Letter now before us, we are informed, by our Secret Committee that you are already in possession of General Instructions upon those important and delicate Subjects, and that it is intended by the same mode of Conveyance to transmit to you, what further may be necessary at present to communicate with regard to them.

\*

\*

\*

### Revenue Department

172.\* In our Letter of the 12th. April and 21st. July last, we have testified our approbation of the conduct of our Governor General & Council, in the Progress made in the great work of reform in the several Departments, and having in our Separate Letter of 25th. September 1785, laid down general principles for your guidance, in forming a complete Establishment of the several Offices under your Presidency, we trust they will receive your mature and most serious deliberation. in order to regulate the whole upon the most economical System practicable.

173. There are however some points relative to this Subject, contained in your late Advices on which we think it necessary, to furnish you, with our remarks.

174. In the Letter from your Secret Department of Inspection of the 25th. October 1785,—you gave us reason to hope, that the reducing the whole expence of your Avenue Department to the Sum of (72,00,000) Seventy two Lacs of Sicca Rupees as directed by us, would be attended with but little difficulty and indeed that the object was then nearly completed, but by your Proceedings of the 22nd. February 1786 we are concerned to observe that so large a Sum as

\*For paragraphs 149-71 relating to Military Department deleted here see Vol. XIX of Fort William—India House Correspondence.

Sicca Rupees 6,94,198 (Six Lacs ninety four thousand, one hundred & ninety eight) remained then to be retrenched, and that the reductions already determined on amounting to Sa. Rups. 4,42,000 (four Lacs, forty two thousand) were only to take place from the first of March.

175. The whole amount to be reduced, in order to conform to our Orders, appears by the Statements sent in by the two Accountants, and entered on your Proceedings of the 22nd. February last, to be Sicca Rupees 11,35,202 (Eleven Lacs, thirty five thousand two hundred and two) instead of only 5,00,000 (five Lacs) as stated in your Letter above referred to, and if the retrenchments necessary to be made for this purpose, had taken place from the first of November 1785, (and which from your aforesaid advices; we had every reason to think they would) instead of a part thereof only from the first of March following. One third of the above, would have been saved in the period, being Sicca Rupees 3,78,400 (three Lacs, seventy eight thousand four hundred) a Sum of no small Importance considering the pressing demands at that period on your Treasury, for the discharge of the Military and other Arrears.

176. As you had directed that the retrenchments in the Offices under the General and Commercial Departments, order'd by us, were to take place from the 1st. November, and those at the Presidency even on the 1st. October 1785, we are of opinion the appearance of partiality shewn to the Servants in the Revenue Department, by deferring the reductions therein, till the 1st. of March 1786, must be considered as an humiliating circumstance, by those employed in the other Departments, and should think ourselves justified, as well from this consideration, as that our Orders of 11th. April required the being carried immediately into execution, were we to insist on their taking place from the 1st. of November, but being aware that this might press hard upon some of the most deserving servants, employed under the Revenue Department, whose conduct may not have merited a retrospect of this nature, as it cannot in the least, be imputed to their charge, that the retrenchments were not made to take place at an earlier period, we forbear on this Account, from giving our directions to that effect; but we do most positively order, that the whole expences of the Revenue Department shall be considered as standing reduced to the Sum of 72,00,000 (Seventy two Lacs) of Sicca Rupees in the manner, laid down in our Letter of the 11th. April 1785, from and after the 1st. of March last, nor will we suffer on any consideration whatever, a further protraction in carrying into execution, our Orders on this Head.

177. In giving our directions on this subject we have not passed unnoticed, the reasonings contained in the Report from the Committee of Revenue entered on the Secret Inspection Proceedings of the 14th. February 1786, relative to sundry Articles in their opinion improperly considered as Chargeable to the Revenues, and the Minutes of the several Members of the Committee thereon but as we do not see the smallest necessity for entering at present, into a minute discussion thereof, we shall content ourselves with observing, that

we perfectly agree in the opinion expressed by Mr. Mackenzie in the opening of his first Minute, that as the Allowances to the Zemindars, expences of the Adawlut, and Stipends to the Nabob, and his Ministers were inserted in the Revenue Accounts of 1776, the Basis on which our Orders were grounded, they ought not to be now considered as an innovation, the Establishment for the Resident at the Durbar and the Allowances of Diet & ca to which the Committee also object, as not being Charges on the Revenues were in like manner included in the Expences of this Department in 1776, and we should of course conceit, would have therefore deserved the attention of the Committee, On the first of these we refer you to our Letter of the 21st. July last Paragraphs 22 & 23.

178. But at the remarks of the Committee of Revenue respecting the Stipends to the Nabob, and his Ministers, and the allowances to the Zemindars & ca contain material information on those subjects, we have been induced to consider them with great attention. We observe on the first, what is stated by Mr. Mackenzie as to the Sons of Mahomed Reza Cawn, and the four other Natives mentioned in his Minutes not coming under the description of Ministers to the Nabob, and aware as we are of the justice of this remark, yet nevertheless we should deem it bad policy in the present situation of our Affairs, to risk the alienation of the Affections of the Natives of this description in amity with the Company, and to whom, also they are in some measure bound, by stipulations entered into with them by the Supreme Council, and who look up to us in consequence, in a great degree for support, by depriving them of the Pensions they had for some years enjoyed, or even of making any considerable reduction therein, we are notwithstanding entirely of opinion, that on the demise of Mahomed Reza Cawn or any other of the present Stipendiaries, except the Nabob, these allowances should cease, unless you should see unavoidable cause for continuing them in a very reduced Scale, to their Families.

179. But as to the Stipend to the Nabob, we conceive our Orders thereon of the 21st. July last are sufficient for your guidance, and to which we therefore refer you.

180. Respecting the Allowances to the Zemindars, we had taken the subject under consideration, and had determined, on directing your particular attention thereto, when we received your Revenue Letter of the 3rd. July last, by which we are informed of your having come to the Resolution of Striking off the Moshaira to the Zemindars, whose Jumma does not exceed that Charg'd on their Lands, the year preceding the Establishment of the Moshaira, and that wherever the present Jumma exceeds the foregoing Standard the Moshaira or such proportion thereof be continued as will leave each Zemindar upon as advantageous a footing as they stood before the Moshaira was allowed."

181. We are pleased to observe, that you have in a great measure, anticipated our views by the foregoing Resolution, for after the most mature examination of your advices respecting the Moshaira, we

were decidedly of the opinion expressed by Mr. Mackenzie in his Minutes, recorded on your Secret Inspection Proceedings of the 16th. February 1786, namely "that if these Allowances were granted to the Zemindars on the express condition of their Lands being taken from them, it follows as a natural consequence, that these being restored, the Allowances might without any hardship, be resumed".— This being our opinion, we could not but consider their continuance as a very extraordinary indulgence, and such, as the present situation of our Affairs would by no means warrant, we repeat therefore our satisfaction, at your having taken the resolution of discontinuing them.

182. There is another article of expence which the Committee of Revenue have remarked on, in their Proceedings recorded the 14th. February 1786, and which as it has been usually classed, under the Zemindary Charge, may with the more propriety, be here noticed for your consideration, we mean the Pensions to Sundry Natives amounting as by the above Proceedings to Sicca Rupees 3,64,596 (Three Lacs, sixty four thousand five hundred & ninety six)— these with the Canongoes Russoom may be proper subjects for attention, in order to effect a reduction therein if practicable, and we recommend them accordingly with that view to your revision.

183. We observe by the 8 & 9 Paragraphs of your Revenue Letter of the 3d. July, that you have directed the Committee of Revenue to divide the Huzzoory Mehals into Collectorships, under Covenant servants of the Company, the charges of which Offices are to be defrayed from the savings made in the Moshaira, and in no wise, to exceed them, on this subject it will be only necessary to refer you to our Letter of the 12th. April last on the Revenues of Bengal, Paragraphs 70 to 77, but as we have therein given it as our opinion, that the larger share of the Collector's Emoluments should arise from a Commission on the amount collected, we think we may reasonably expect from the extent of the saving you have effected in the article of Moshaira the whole Charges of the Revenue Department will in future be considerably less than the sum of Sicca Rupees 72,00,000 (Seventy two Lacs) to which we trust and expect they were reduced before you resolved on the discontinuing the Zemindars Allowances.

184. We are the more sanguine in this expectation, from our having authorized you by our Letter above quoted, to put the Dewanny Adawluts under the superintendence of the Collectors, by which, the whole expence of Separate Judges, will become unnecessary.

185. We must here remark that the List of the Establishments under the Revenue Department, not having been transmitted at the same time, with those of the Civil Department, received by the Winterton, this will leave us much at a loss in preparing the Annual List for Parliament, the ensuing Sessions, and the Omission therefore is of no small consequence.

186. Having in what is above stated had occasion to advert to the Proceedings and Reports of the Committee of Revenue, we are under

the necessity of expressing our disapprobation at the Style in which some of those Minutes are wrote. In deliberating on the subjects of their Official duty, there can be no ground for expressing their differences of opinion in such rancorous language we must consider it as disrespectful to their Superiors, uncreditable to themselves, and prejudicial to the public service, and although we have received with satisfaction the information contained in Mr. Mackenzie's Minutes, we are at the same time obliged to observe that he appears peculiarly to blame, in what we have now animadverted upon.

187. We have lately had occasion to refer to your Proceedings and Advices respecting the Jaghire possessed by the deceased Nabob Munneer Ul Dowlah, and since continued by you, for the Subsistence of his Family.—Under all the Circumstances of the case, as set forth in your Revenue Proceedings of the 24th. May 1774, and as far as we are at present competent to judge, we hereby direct, that the same be continued, until our further Orders, during their residence within the Provinces.

188. When it was granted, the Family of the deceased consisted of five sons, besides Women and other Relations.—As the Grant can be consider'd in no other light than as a temporary one, made under circumstances of a very peculiar nature, we shall naturally expect to be eased of a part of this expence, in proportion as the Family may happen to diminish.

189. We have very attentively considered your late Proceedings relative to the disputes which arose between Sujah Kuly Cawn, the Elder Brother, and the rest of the Family, and are of opinion, that your decision thereon, in your capacity of Judges of the Sudder Dewannee Adawlut, was both equitable and legal—you acted likewise very commendably in being determined by the Opinion of the Molavies, as to the proportions in which the intended subsistence should be distributed, as advised in your Revenue Letter of the 1st. December 1784; more however as an equitable test to guide your discretion, and preclude all imputation of partiality, than as a positive rule of Law, since, if there was no inheritance there could be no judicial partition.

190. Although we ratify this appropriation of the Jaghire for the present, we shall reserve our final determination till we have further Advices from you; therefore in order that we may be enabled to regulate our future conduct therein according to Justice and propriety, we direct that you state to us minutely, what were the particular Services of the Nabob Munneer Ul Dowlah either before or during the time he held the Administration of the King's Affairs, and what the extent of his Sufferings or losses in consequence of, subsequent Political Arrangements.

191. You will likewise inform us, by whom the Jaghire was granted, and in what terms; what Revenue it pays to Government, and what its estimated produce, and in whom the proprietorship of the Soil is now vested; and whether the family ever obtained Possession of the Jaghire of their late Father, in the Dominions of the Nabob of Owde.

192. As this subject seems to have engaged a considerable share of your attention, and has produced much contrariety of Opinion in the different forms under which it has been agitated, with a heavy expence to the family; we shall proceed to hazard some few reflections arising from our own review of it.

193. Although much artificial intricacy was introduced into the disputes which took place between the several Members of Munneer Ull Dowlah's Family, it appears to us that the only point in issue was simply this, whether the Land held by him in the Province of Behar was of the Altumgha or Jaghire Tenure; and that the rules of process regarding these Tenures respectively, as flowing from the general system of Indian Government, rather than from the Code of Mahomedan Jurisprudence, were proper subjects of enquiry from the Canongoes and other Officers of the Khalsa or Nizamut, instead of Molavies and Mufties, as mere expounders of the Mahomedan Law. We conceive the Jaghire to be beneficial grant of Land limited to the life of the Grantee, and even in its origin and object, held at pleasure of the Sovereign for certain Services to be rendered to him. In this case the same cause which would exclude any younger son from a Share of the Possession, would equally bar the elder son from Succeeding to the whole; not upon the Doctrine delivered by the Molavies, that "Imperial Grants do not devolve as an Inheritance to *all the Issue[s]* of the deceased Grantee" but because the tenure was not of an Hereditary Quality, and must revert to the Sovereign who gave it.

194. Nor could this course of reversion have been defeated, either by a Will of the deceased Jaghiredar, Munneer Ull Dowlah, or by a New Firmaun of the Emperor Shah Allum, which Documents, Sir Elijah Impey, as Judge of our Court of Sudder Dewannee Adaulat permitted Sujah Kuly Cawn to plead in support of his Appeal, against the decision of the inferior Court, we doubt, whether the first, could by the Customs of India, have any effect to divert the usual descent of Land, if Hereditary, and it would be a dangerous Precedent to allow any Operation in our Provinces to Firmauns or Sunneds, which might be obtained from the Emperor in the present conjuncture.

195. But we find it asserted in an Opinion deliver'd by the Khalsah Malovy, that it has been the Custom of the English Government, to "divide such Grants whether Jaghire or not, or Altumgha or not amongst the Heirs of the Donee and instances are afterwards quoted in a Petition of Abbas Kuly Cawn.—We wish to know, whether such a practice has prevailed, and what instances, and under whose Administration.—For we see no wisdom, but on the contrary some inconvenience and much danger of partiality, and abuse in such departure from the established usage & Laws of Hindostan.

196. Considering Jaghires as a tenure of Land, which though a System of distant conquest render'd it politic for the Mahomedan Invaders, is in many respects ill suited to the nature of our present Possessions in Bengal, it seems to us rather advisable to promote

their discontinuance, than seek to perpetuate them by forced constructions.—If any case should occur where the Incumbent has fairly obtained the Proprietorship of the land, and by long residence, or by his protection and good conduct has gained the attachment of the Inhabitants; we conceive it would be better to convert the Possession into a Zemindary tenure (either with, or without the Usual fine to Government) which common usage has render'd Hereditary, and which introduces no irregularity in the general Government of the Country.

197. Although this Subject might naturally form a part of the enquiries which we directed in our Revenue Letter of 12th. April 1786, concerning all the different tenures of Land within our Provinces; we take this occasion of pointing it out for your discussion, that we may be furnished with your Opinion, accurately drawn from local information upon the Questions, we have here suggested.

198. By your Revenue Letter of the 15th. October 1785, we were advised of the conclusion of the Ophium Contract for 4 years, with Messrs. Young & Heatley with the prospect of a considerable profit to the Company, beyond the former Contract, and which encreased profit, by your subsequent Proceedings in your Inspection Department of the 8th. November following, is stated at the Specific Sum of CRs. 3,80,002 (three Lacs eighty thousand and two) p. Annum.

199. In our Letter of the 12th. July 1782, we expressed a wish that this monopoly might be abolished, and the Article of Ophium left upon the same footing with every other produce of the Country.—But for the reasons stated by Sir John Macpherson, in his Minute upon this Subject, as entered upon your Revenue Consultations, of the 11th. July 1785, We are inclined to think with him that this branch of our Revenue must be Conducted by a Monopoly, in some shape or other.—Replying therefore upon the assurance in your Inspection Letter of the 29th. April 1785, that the Ophium must be manufactured on the footing of a Monopoly or the Revenue fail, we hereby confirm the Contract you have made with Messrs. Young and Heatley, the same having been concluded according to the Rules repeatedly laid down for your guidance, respecting Contracts in general, and they being the lowest Bidders.

200. But although we have adopted your opinion relative to the general principle of conducting this branch of Revenue by a Monopoly, and notwithstanding we are unwilling to disturb the present Contract (which appears to have been made in the most fair and open manner) so long as the terms of it are adhered to, on the part of the Contractors, we nevertheless coincide in opinion with Sir John Macpherson, as expressed in the Minute beforementioned that an Agency, if ably conducted, would be the most eligible mode by which this Monopoly can be managed. For in the first instance, by appointing a Person to the Agency, possessed of full and complete knowledge in this branch, the Company would be eased of an Annual Expence of Court. Rups. 42,800 (forty two thousand eight hundred) which they now pay to the Supervisor, and by allowing the Agent a certain Commission on the Sale at Calcutta, he would

be interested both in the quantity & quality of the Ophium, and, ultimately, the profit which is now enjoyed by the Contractor, would remain in the Company's Treasury—We are strengthened in this opinion by a perusal of the several proposals of Messrs. Davidson, Wodsworth, and Brooke, entered upon your Revenue Consultations of the 19th. August 1785;—The first states, that in conducting this business by Agency, a saving might be made in four years, being the term of the Contract, of six Lacs of Rupees and upwards. The Second estimates a saving in the same period of at least £ 50,000 (fifty thousand pounds) and the last asserts, that this Article is capable of producing greater advantages to the Company by an Agency, than they can possibly derive from it in any other mode; that the Company have not yet reaped all the benefit which this Trade is capable of yielding, nor, under the present system, can its real value, and the benefit which ought to be derived from it, be ascertained.

201. We have from time to time expressed a general disapprobation of Agencies, and of the high percentage at which the same have been managed, and have been uniform in our Instructions, that such parts of the Company's business as could be managed by a Contract should be so managed.—However particular cases may require deviation; and it is impossible for us not to pay due attention to the opinions of those, who by their local knowledge and experience, may be supposed to have good grounds for what they have asserted.—And altho' we still enforce our former directions as to Contracts for a general rule of proceeding, there seems cause to doubt its expediency, in the instance now before us—Suspending therefore our final judgment, we direct that you take the subject into your particular consideration, and after forming your own Opinions, from the Best information you can possibly procure, you will report to us the best mode which, in your judgment, ought to be adopted for the future management of the Ophium Farms, that you may receive our final Instructions thereon before the expiration of the subsisting Contract in 1789—In this enquiry, present advantage to the Company is not to be the only object of your consideration—You must extend your views to the prosperity of the Country, as connected with the ease and happiness of the Ryotts, who are the Cultivators of the Poppy, and who, according to Sir John Macpherson's before mentioned Minute, have property in the Crop, and are therefore Jealous of their established rights, and suspicious of innovation—In the mean time due attention must be paid to quality of the Ophium, upon which the success of this branch of our Revenue so much depends, and for preventing every species of adulteration—It will likewise be expedient to consider the right of the Company to assume this Trade to the exclusion of all other European Nations, as well as the probable effects either of continuing, or laying it open, to the internal prosperity and Foreign Trade of the British Provinces—And any Evidence tending to prove that it was not a free and open Trade, under the actual Government of the Mahomedan Princes should be entered upon your Consultations, to be employed as arguments to defend our rights, in any discussions which may arise in Europe, in case it should be determined to retain the exclusive Trade to the Company.

202. Thus far we have considered Ophium as an Article of *internal Revenue*—We shall now view it as an Article of *Foreign Commerce*—And we know not how it can be so beneficially applied as in the aid of our China Trade— In reply therefore to the 5th. Paragraph of your Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 29th. April 1785, you have our full permission to apply the proceeds of the Ophium Manufactory, with the exception herein after mentioned, to the exclusive benefit of that Trade—The most eligible mode of doing this, is the only point remaining for consideration.

203. We have very attentively perused all your Proceedings upon this subject since 1782; and various are the methods which have been suggested for that purpose—With respect to the quantity of Ophium manufactured, we do not find, that in any one year it ever exceeded four thousand Chests—Sir John Macpherson, in his minute upon this Subject of the 9th. April 1785, states the Annual produce upon an average of 5 years, at no more than 3500 Chests, and he supposes that the Dutch at Batavia would annually take off 1000 Chests, that 100 may be annually disposed of at Tringana<sup>s</sup> and that a vend for 1200 more would be found at Macao and China.

204. With respect to the probable consumption of this Article in China, Colonel Watson, in his proposals, entered on your General Consultations of the 16th. November 1785, states it as an undoubted fact, that the Inhabitants of the Southern Provinces are in the increasing habit of using Ophium, and that they require a supply of 1500 or 2000 Chests annually—On the other hand, one of the *Supra Cargoes*, Mr. Peach in his Letter to your Board of the 4th. July preceding, says, that the sale of that Commodity in China is very uncertain.

205. Having already given our Opinion, that this Article is undoubtedly a proper object of encouragement for foreign Commerce, & remaining of the Opinion contained in our Letter to you of the 12th. July 1782, that the Company cannot on any account, engage directly, in an illicit Traffick in it to China, where it is prohibited, it remains to be considered in what manner, consistent with those Opinions, this Produce of our Provinces can be most beneficially converted to the purposes of Foreign Commerce and particularly of a Supply to our Treasury at Canton.

206. Of the three modes proposed by Sir John Macpherson, in his minute of the 9th April 1785, for the future disposal of Ophium, Vizt. 1st. By a Society of Merchants.—2ndly. Under the management of our own Servants on the Company's account—and 3rdly To be disposed of at public Sale—We have endeavour'd to form an Opinion, the specific advantages of the first, which has for its object the Annual payment in an increasing proportion of, from 400,000 (four hundred thousand) to 800,000 (eight hundred thousand) Spanish Dollars into the Treasury at Canton, appears at first sight to be very flattering—But from the proposals which were afterwards made to you, in consequence of your own Advertisements, we doubt whether as to the rate of Exchange of Spanish Dollars 41½ (forty one and an half) for 100 (one hundred) Current Rupees the same would be

altogether practicable, the proposals being in general at 40 (forty) and you yourselves having acquiesced in Spanish Dollars 41 (forty one) P. 100 (hundred) Curr. Rupees.

207. The quantity proposed to be annually exported is at least 3500 (Three thousand five hundred) Chests.—If no better terms could be obtained, we should feel greater satisfaction at parting with the same at the Medium Price of Curr. Rupees 477-6 (four hundred & seventy seven-six) P. Chest to be paid for at Canton at the usual rate of Spanish Dollars 41 (forty one) p. 100 (one hundred) Current Rupees, which would furnish a most seasonable supply to our China Treasury, of Spanish Dollars 685,033 (six hundred & eighty five thousand and thirty three) without any risk to the Company.

208. The second proposal is liable to the objection already stated, as it engages the Company in an illicit Trade, with the Inhabitants of China, which on no account would we wish to be concerned in—Were we once possessed of a firm Establishment to the Eastward, there would be little doubt of the success of the undertaking, We might there meet with a Market for the whole produce of our Ophium Farms, to be paid for in Dollars, or in Tin and Pepper, and such other Articles as might be very profitably disposed of at Canton; And whatever Ophium might be in demand by the Chineze, that quantity would readily find its way thither, without the Company being exposed to the disgrace of engaging in an illicit Commerce.

209. We observe by a Letter from Bencoolen entered on your General Consultations of the 2nd June 1784, that great advantages might be derived to the Company, by making Fort Marlborough a Mart for the sale of Ophium to the Malays; It is therein asserted, that before the capture of the Betsey, it sold at 1300 (thirteen hundred) Rix Dollars p. Chest, and that under proper restrictions 500 (five hundred) might at least be easily got for it.—We therefore direct that from one to two hundred Chests be annually sent to Bencoolen on the Company's Account, the proceeds of which to be appropriated to the provision of Pepper.

210. The 3rd Proposal appears to us more consistent with the general freedom of Commerce than the other two; And if, as we have already observed, you can ensure to us the annual amount beforementioned, to be paid into the Canton Treasury, we should not hesitate to direct you to continue the sale of the Ophium in that manner.

211. Having thus given you our general Ideas upon this Subject, and having acquiesced in the principle, that the proceeds, except in the instance beforementioned should be applied exclusively to the benefit of the China Trade, we hereby give you a latitude to adopt such a Plan as in your Estimation, will best answer that desirable purpose, and at the same time be the most advantageous to the Company in other respects.—You are to observe however that till final arrangements upon this and other Subjects are made with Foreign Nations it would not be adviseable to withhold from them,

the indulgence they have had in the receipt of a certain proportion of this Article; but we should be glad to know how far, and with what success you have urged the Idea of the Dutch paying to our Supra Cargoes at Canton, the price of the Ophium they should receive.

212. We cannot conclude this subject, without expressing our approbation of your conduct in the several steps you have taken for putting the Ophium Trade upon a beneficial footing for the Company; and towards supplying our Supra Cargoes with Specie, exclusive of your annual remittance, without draining the Provinces, and we are pleased to find, by your Letter of the 31st December 1785, that you have been so far successful, as to engage for the payment at Canton, in Dollars, for the value of Ophium delivered to the amount of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  (eight & an half) lacs of Current Rupees. The same anxious desire of affording assistance to this valuable branch of our Commerce, we persuade ourselves you will continue to manifest, not only in the Article of Ophium, but in every other commodity that may be beneficial, either mediately or immediately to that Commerce.

213. In consequence of the recommendation contained in the 6th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter of the 7th February 1786, we have resolved, that the allowance of 250 (two hundred and fifty) Rupees P. Month made to Captain Hamilton in Bengal, on account of the literary work in which he is engaged", be continued to be paid there for the space of twelve months, from the 19th October 1786.—We observe that Capt. Hamilton, in his Letter to your Board of the 22nd December 1785, states the probability of the work for which he was granted this allowance, being completed within a few months from that date; it cannot therefore but be considered as a very liberal extension of the term, our consenting to his Salary being continued to him twenty two months from the date of his Letter of the 22nd December 1785, or to the 19th October 1787.

214. In the 7th and 8th Paragraphs of your Revenue Letter of the 24th March last, you have referred to us a Tender made by Mr. Archibald Keir of the Grant and Lease of his Mines in the district of Ramgur for a reimbursement of his expences, with Interest thereon, amounting in the whole to Sa. Rups. 1,50,000 (one lac, fifty thousand). But as in consequence of a Clause of redemption in Mr. Keir's second Lease for 100 Years, We in our Letter of the 11th April 1785, ordered the same to be annulled, and as we are not at all convinced of the Public Utility of working these Mines, we must decline complying with Mr. Keirs proposals. But as the terms of his first Lease of 30 years were not coupled with any Clause of redemption, and were approved and confirmed by you, Mr. Keir may have a legal claim to the benefit arising from the said first Lease during the term thereof, we therefore can have no objection to his assigning over to any Man, or set of Men the advantages he may expect to derive therefrom for such period and no longer, on the conditions of the first Lease being faithfully performed, respecting the Duties which are therein stipulated to be paid to the Company. In the mean time, we direct, that you state to Us, in as explicit a manner as possible, the grounds of your Opinion, that this undertaking might prove

of much local public utility, without any injury to the Export Trade of England.

215. We have perused your Proceedings referred to in the 75th, 76th & 77th Paragraphs of your Secret Letter of the 28th February last, relative to the purchase of salt manufacture in the Maratta Districts near Balasore, and, for the reasons stated therein, approve of the measure.—On referring to a Letter from Mr. Wordsworth, Resident at Balasore of the 29th October 1783, entered on your General Consultations of the 1st December following, we find the following calculation,

3 Lacks of Maunds to be delivered at 65 or 70 Rupees P % is at 65	1,85,000
3 Lacks of Maunds to be Sold at Calcutta @ 200	6,00,000
Balance in favor of the Com'py	<u>4,15,000</u>

but by the Comptroller's Letter to your Board of the 29th November 1785, it appears that Mr. Wordsworth had afterwards estimated the price at about 75 Sa. Rs. P % maunds.—as this must make a material alteration in the profits, we are naturally led to ask Mr. Wordsworth's reasons for this difference in the price of the delivery from his first estimate.

216. Altho' by the agreement with the Vackeel of Moodajee Boosla, entered on your Secret Consultations of the 8th December 1785, you have stipulated for all the Salt made in Balasore, yet we agree with the Comptroller in the necessity of diminishing and keeping down the manufacture of Maratta Salt as much as possible.—This however must be managed with much delicacy, and in such a lenient manner, as not to give room for suspicion that it was meant by the agreement, in place of buying the manufacture of Salt, in reality to annihilate it.—If such a suspicion should be entertained, it would be dangerous Instrument in the hands of those, whose rivalry you dread.—At the same time, care must be taken that no more be manufactured, than what is disposed of to the Company, otherwise the object of the agreement will be entirely defeated.

217. With respect to Mr. Wordsworths allowances, we are of opinion that 6000 (six thousand) Rupees P. Annum as settled by us in our Dispatches of the 11th April 1785, with the addition of (five) P. Cent on the profits of the Salt, is amply sufficient, and therefore direct that your strictly conform thereto.

218. Having yet received only the duplicate of your Letter dated 4th July 1786, without the explanatory Papers, which we suppose will accompany the original, we cannot at present, pass any decision upon the plan you have adopted, at the recommendation of the Committee of Revenue, for cultivating & defending the Country situated between Purnea, & Morung, as advised in the three first Paragraphs of the abovementioned Letter.

219. We have already in the 181st Paragraph of this Letter confirmed your decision relating to the Moshaira of Zemindars; your

third question stated in the 4th and 10th Paragraphs goes to a point we have always been solicitous to ascertain, and to which we have expressly directed your enquiries in our separate Revenue Letter of April 1786, in order to ascertain the real rights of the Zemindars, as founded either in constitution or compact, or admitted by the usage of the Mahomedan Government in it's best times.

220. However this is only one point of view.—There is another not less important in which the question ought to be consider'd; that is, the political expediency and wisdom of declaring the actual Property of the Land to be in the Zemindars.—For our own part, as possessing a Country, which we wish to prosper and grow rich, we have no hesitation in saying, that in our judgement, a populous Country without landed property, would argue poverty, barbarism and Slavery.

221. We consider the Zemindars as a Class of Men, the most important in the community, who for the benefits they render to the state, ought to be rewarded even with liberality.—At the same time, reason and justice dictate, that reward, from whatever sources it arise, should be distributed with equality.—But whether it would be possible to certify the sources of their emoluments with a degree of exactness, which might enable the Government to carry this equitable principle into effect, without creating great perplexity or discontent in the operation, is more than we feel ourselves finally competent to decide.—We decline entering further into this subject for the present, but will, when the Papers come to hand, give every attention to the lights arising from your present discussion, which the high importance of the subject, claims from us. ,

222. We have long foreseen that the article of your Revenue Plan of 1781, which proposes to bring the collections of the districts to the Presidency, without the intervention of Collectors would in the end prove fallacious; which is evinced by the expediency you argue in your 8th & 9th Paragraphs of appointing covenanted servants to each of the Hazoory Mehalls.—Having anticipated this subject in the 72nd, 73rd & 74th Paras of our Separate Letter of the 12th April last, & in the general Instructions conveyed to you by that Letter which will lead you to a new arrangement of the Districts upon principles of uniformity & economy, we shall content ourselves, with remarking upon the present occasions, that a *Collector* in a District declared *Hazoory*, appears to us a solicism in Revenue Government.

223. We do not entirely agree with you in the propriety of allowing to the Chiefs & Collectors, the appointment of their own Native Officers, as stated in the 11th, 12th, 13th & 14th Paragraphs of the Letter before us;—we admit that as a check upon abuses in the Collector, a permanent Dewan nominated by the superior power may not in all cases avail, still we think it is some check & it must conduce to the regularity of the Provincial Accounts and to the preservation of local usages of which a Collector newly appointed, must be ignorant. With respect to Calcutta Banyans in general, we fear that much mischief has been produced by letting them become Farmers, & Managers of our Revenues.—Indeed when we consider that all

Collectors are restrained by Law, from entering into trade, & ought to understand the language of the Country, we do not perceive what use we can have for Banyans.

224. At the same time your study to make every possible retrenchment in our expenses, is laudable, and we wait to see the subsidiary regulations which you have substituted, & to learn from you the effects of this arrangement, which you have made as an experiment.

225. We approve the directions you gave to the Committee of Revenue, for making the Settlement of the Bengal year 1193, as mentioned in the 15th Paragraph.

226. The embankment of the Cossimbuzar River mentioned in the 16th Paragraph, certainly called for your attention—we trust that in the construction of any new works, such as Piers, and Jets-of Piles, as mentioned in the 17th Paragraph of your Letter above quoted, you will not proceed to incur any considerable expense, without taking the opinion of your principal Engineer, or other persons, conversant in such undertakings.

227. You will signify to Syed Ally Khan Behauder, our approbation of the Sunneed you have granted him upon the principles stated in your 18th & 19th Paragraphs.—But upon a future vacancy happening, it may be worthy of your consideration, whether the Office of Naib of Dacca might not be abolish'd as useless.

228. We shall take the earliest opportunity after the receipt of the Proceedings therein mentioned of replying to the 20th, 21st & 22nd Paragraphs—the 23rd Paragraph needs no reply.

229. We have perused the proposals of Mr. Wm. Young, referr'd to in the 16th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter of the 24th March 1786, for farming the whole Province of Bahar for 20 years—Independent of the vast magnitude of the proposal itself, & the general policy of preventing, as much as possible, the operation of European influence in the internal management of the collections, it is necessary, we should wait for your report on the effects of our Orders, respecting the future management of the Revenues, as communicated to you in a Separate Letter of 12th April 1786, before we determine on any new arrangement, however specious, that may be submitted to our consideration.—But as Mr Young's Letter contains much useful information, and of which, you may probably see occasion to avail yourselves, we recommend the same to your serious attention.—And whenever you may in future see occasion to submit any proposition, to our determination, we shall expect your explicit opinion thereon, which, in the present case, you have neglected to give us.

#### Commercial Department

230. In our Letter of the 14th March last, we gave you very explicit directions for establishing a Commercial intercourse with the Country of Assam.—Mr. Baillie whom we have appointed our Agent for managing the undertaking, proceeds to India this season

on the Ship Rodney.—As we have received no new light upon this subject, we have nothing to add to the Instructions we have before given you except with respect to Mr. Baillie's Allowances, which we are inclined to think should be, by a reasonable Commission or percentage on the Exports and Imports. This we conceive will be a means of quickening Mr. Baillie's diligence, and increasing his attention to the important object, committed to his Charge.—It is likewise both economical and political in every new adventure, to proportion the reward according to the success of the undertaking.

231. With respect to the Trade to Thibet, we have not yet been advised of the success of the Caravan, which was to take its departure thither from Calcutta in April 1785.—We however have read with great satisfaction, Lieut. Turner's account referred to in your Letter of the 28th February last of the reception given at Tashoo Lomboo, to Poorungeer the Gosseyn<sup>10</sup>, who was deputed thither by Mr. Hastings in the same year, by which we observe, that several Bengal Merchants had arrived there, and had met with no losses or impediments.—We likewise remark with particular pleasure, that in passing through the Country of Bootan, the Gosseyn received the most ample and voluntary assistance, from the subjects of the Debe Rajah.

232. This favorable disposition in the Debe Rajah and the encouragement held out at Thibet by the Regent and his Ministers, who appear to entertain a very high respect for our national integrity of character, have made us sanguine in our expectations, that a most beneficial Commerce, will very soon be established with that distant Country, to the great advantage of the Bengal Provinces, by a regular importation of Bullion, and to the encouragement of the Manufactures of Great Britain, by encreasing the vend for her Commodities.

233. But it is impossible for us at this distance, to point out to you the most eligible mode which ought to be pursued for the accomplishment of these purposes; whether by encouraging the resort of Cashmarians, Gossains, Bootans and Thibetians to Calcutta, or by sanctioning regular Caravans to go directly to Thibet, or by the Establishment of a Commercial Factory in the Province of Bengal, as near to the Territories of the Debe Rajah as possible. But whatever mode you may think proper to adopt, you must studiously avoid, affording the least cause of suspicion to any of the Country powers that we have any schemes of Ambition to accomplish, which, in truth, we have not; and we must here repeat the sentiment contained in our beforementioned Letter<sup>o</sup> of the 14th March last, that our views in forming conections with any new States or Powers are merely Commercial. It is the more necessary that the Debe Rajah should have no suspicions of this nature, since it seems difficult, if not impracticable to open a communication with Thibet, through the Dominions of Nepaul, and that it is alone thro' the encouragement of the Rajah of Bootan, that the proposed intercourse of Trade can be made to flourish.

234. From the recent instances of the good disposition towards us of the Debe Rajah, and in the Government of Thibet, we think little

difficulty would be found in persuading them to enter into a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce with your Government.—The former Rajah we observe, had actually concluded such a Treaty.

235. Upon the whole, the necessity of encouraging a Commercial intercourse with the Territories of the Grand Lama, the Inhabitants of which, carry on a very considerable traffic with the Chineze and Northern Tartars, is so apparent, that we have only to recommend it to your serious attention.

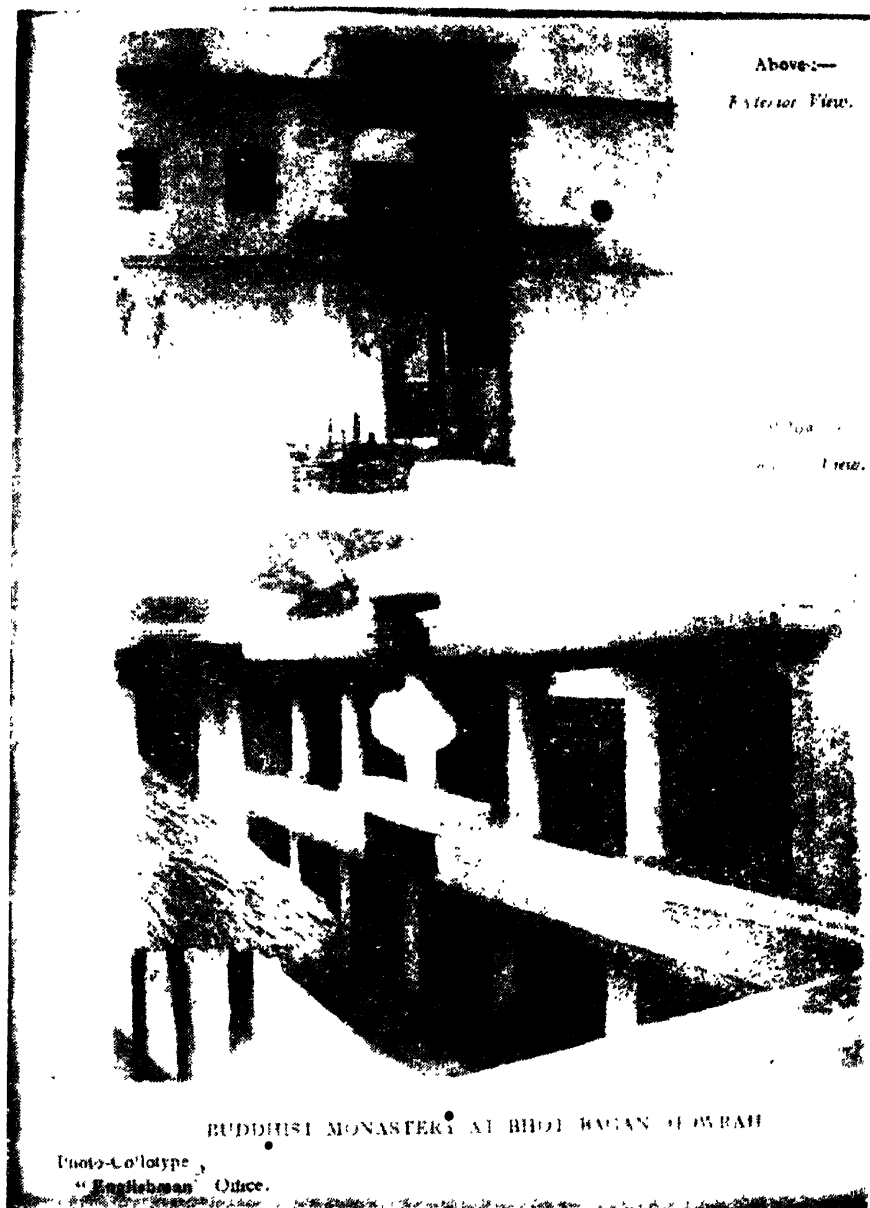
236. In our Letter of the 26th April 1777, we gave our concurrence to the building a Temple of Worship at the Lama's request on the Banks of the Ganges<sup>1</sup> as a resort for such Pilgrims of that Nation as might occasionally visit this River on account of their religious Ceremonies, and we observe that a Sunneed was actually issued for the ground. It may be politic to renew this offer in your next Communication with the Regent. It will at least serve to convince him of our good disposition towards his Countrymen.

237. That you may have no difficulty in referring to your Records for information on this very important subject we enclose in the Packet a List of the Papers relative thereto,\* and most earnestly recommend them to your attentive perusal and consideration, as we shall expect your sentiments thereon at large, by the earliest opportunity.

238. We note with some degree of satisfaction that our views respecting a reduction in the Price of Salt Petre, have been partly anticipated by the firmness of our Governor General & Council. As the time however has not admitted of our receiving a reply to the inquiries we directed to be instituted respecting this Article in our Letters of the 21st September 1785 and 12th April last, we at present forbear to enlarge on the subject trusting that the particular directions therein contained, will have claimed the early deliberation of the Board of Trade under the new institution, and that from their Zeal and Fidelity we may experience the most beneficial consequences as well in this as in every other branch of our Investment. As soon as we shall be in possession of the result of the enquiries, we shall again resume the Subject and regulate our future Instructions accordingly. On the expiration of Mr. Harris's Contract for transportation of this article from Patna to Calcutta which is mentioned will happen in February 1787, we trust you will have taken the necessary measures for obtaining a new one on the most favourable terms possible to be procured for the Company, which Contract we desire may be for no longer a period than from year to year.

239. In our Letter of the 12th April last, we informed you of our having received near 7 Tons of Salt Petre of the most inferior kind, being little better than earth or Rubbish, Samples of which were then transmitted you. As we have since then discovered 483 Bags

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 28, 1785-7, pp. 155-6 and Vol. 33, 1787-8, pp. 65-6.



Buddhist Monastery at Bhot Bagan in Howrah



more of the same sort by the Ships of the present Season and probably hereafter may discover a still further quantity, we are convinced that in some quarter or other, we have been most grossly imposed upon. As it is impossible for us to fix upon the offending parties, we direct that you institute a very serious inquiry respecting the same and wherever you may be able to fix an act of fraud on any Servant belonging to the Company, that you not only cause such person to make us a restitution of the cost and charges that we have sustained thereon, but that you also dismiss such Person the Company's Service, We expect however to have restitution made, let the circumstance have arisen from any cause or party whatever.

240. We shall return by some of the Ships of the Season the 483 Bags above alluded to with an Account of the Invoice Price with Freight and all Charges thereon, and we shall pursue the like method with respect to any other quantities that we may hereafter find in the like situation.

241. In our Letters of the 21st September 1785 and 12 April last, we complained of the badness of the Bags in which the Salt Petre is packed, we are sorry to be under the necessity of remarking that the like cause of complaint still continues. Those received by the Ships of this year were so very rotten that the moment they came to be moved they fell to pieces, so that the Petre might in a manner be said to be stowed in Bulk; a very considerable wastage has been occasioned thereby, besides our incurring a heavy expence for new Bags.—On the receipt of the Petre for next Season should we find that a proper attention has not been paid to our Orders already issued on the subject, we shall not fail to make the offending parties feel the severest marks of our displeasure.

242. On looking over the Consultations of the late Board of Trade, we find under date the 24th May 1784, a Letter recorded from the Export Warehousekeeper, by which it appears that no adjustment of the Receipts, Deliveries, and remains of Salt Petre had taken place in his Department for eight years past, the consequence of which has been, that when such account came to be taken, there appear'd a deficiency of no less than 14,772 Maunds which is equal to 7386 Bags, or upwards of 490 Tons, amounting to C. Rs. 76,561.6 (Seventy six thousand, five hundred & sixty one, six annas) As this deficiency is full one and three quarters P. Cent on the whole quantity delivered, and it appears from a similar statement made out for 5 years preceding, the Statement then delivered that such deficiency very little exceeded one half P. Cent, we very much disapprove of our late Board of Trade having suffered the whole of the same to be written off to the Account of Profit & Loss, we are convinced such a deficiency never could have happened but from some negligence on the part of the persons who had the article in charge, and it was the Duty of our Board of Trade, to have made a very strict enquiry respecting the same, as the issue of such inquiry might have afforded some information on the subject. We have heard that very considerable emoluments accrue to our Servants in the Warehouse from the Sweepings of this article in which possibly abuses may have been practiced which may partly account for such deficiency it is therefore our

directions that our Governor General & Council do institute an inquiry respecting the same, and if it shall be discovered that any improper practices have prevailed in this respect, that they do transmit us the names of the respective parties and also call upon them to refund such sums as may have been so obtained, and that such Regulations may be established as may best tend to prevent the like happening in future. We approve of our late Board of Trade having ordered an adjustment to take place of this article in future annually, and we direct that the like adjustment be made of every article, both in our Export and Import Warehouses and that no deficiency that may appear be written off to the Account of Profit & Loss without the most satisfactory reasons being offered for the same, which reasons we desire may be fully recorded, on the Board of Trade's Proceedings.

243. As it is highly essential that we should have the completest information possible to be obtained of the nature and extent of the Trade carried on to and from the differnt parts of Asia, by the several European Nations, and as we are convinced that our own concerns have received very material detriment from the illicit practices of Interlopers trading thither under the sanction of Foreign Colours, it is our positive Instructions which you are to consider as a Standing Order that there be transmitted us from time to time an Account of all the Ships or Vessels that shall arrive at Bengal under Foreign Colours particularizing their names and burthen, the name of the Commander, the time of arrival, from whence, in whose employ with the best specification you may be able to procure both of their import and export Cargoes, to which we desire may be added such Observations and remarks, as may occur to you thereon, in order if it shall appear necessary that we may take the needful measures for checking such Trade where it may be found to be improperly conducted.—As a strict attention to this subject will form an important part of the duty of our New Board of Trade, and if faithfully executed will be attended with the most beneficial consequences to our Commercial Interests, we trust we shall hereafter find on their parts a strict and punctual obedience has been paid thereto.

244. We expect this Register to be kept in the Office of the Custom Master, conceiving it to fall properly within the line of his duty, and that the Company be put to no additional expence on account of the same.

245. We have been informed that Persons high in our Service, and who have been thought worthy of the most confidential Situations, have notwithstanding those flattering marks of our favor suffered themselves so far ungratefully to forget their duty to us, as to enter into Commercial Connexions the most injurious possible to our Interests. We mean in illicitly remitting to Copenhagen, St. Orient and other different parts of Europe, the choicest selection of the most valuable and profitable articles that the Country affords.—We have had pointed out to us by name Persons lately in our Service and some now remaining therein, whose remittances of this nature have turned out to them as far as 3s/9d (three Shillings and nine pence) the Rupee, which our own Cargoes from the defect in their

quality, the badness of their purchase; and again from our being so effectually shut out of the foreign Markets, scarcely net us the Rupee at par. As our information is not so minute as to charge this fact home upon the respective parties, altho' we are fully satisfied of the authenticity thereof, and as we are convinced such a traffick cannot be so conducted in Bengal but that it must in some measure become a matter of notoriety, we direct that our Governor General & Council do in the most effectual manner possible endeavour to make themselves fully acquainted with the manner in which this traffick is carried on, and of the parties concerned therein, and if they shall be able to trace out which of our Servants have been directly or indirectly concerned, or have in any manner aided or assisted in carrying on such Commerce, that they do whatever may be their rank or Station, instantly dismiss such persons from our service.

246. A Bale of 11 WC. which you will receive by the Atlas contains 20 Pieces of Superfine Double Camblots that have been boiled, in order to render them more pliable, and which are recommended as suitable to your Climate, and as we wish to extend the Woollen Manufactory, which is so essential to the Interest of this Country, every information respecting that Article, must be sent us by the earliest Ships especially on this sort of fabrick they have number 1 & 2 affixed to them; so that if they are in demand and should prove advantageous to the Company, by your forwarding the numbers that have the preference, you will be certain of having the proper sort sent, Duplicates of those Numbers remaining with us for that purpose.—

247. The very great deficiency in the expected amount of the Investment, from your Presidency by the Ships which imported into Great Britain in the course of the past Season, naturally led us to an attentive perusal of the Correspondence upon that subject, between you and our late Board of Trade, from the 25th April 1785, to the Dispatch of the Winterton, the latter end of March 1786. And most sincerely do we wish that this examination had produced the effect of removing the unfavourable impressions which have been made on our Minds, from a variety of circumstances which have attended the provision of the Bengal Investment for several years past.—These impressions, and the cause which produced them were fully communicated to Earl Cornwallis in a Letter from the Secret Committee, under date the 12th April last, upon His Lordship's embarkation and we trust his Lordship has been successful in his endeavours for making the discoveries thereon directed.—

248. We are very ready to admit, that a scarcity of current specie arising from the embarrassed situation of public Affairs, and the great discount on paper Currency, might possibly have some effect upon the Investment, but when we see the Board of Trade, upon every occasion of an expected deficiency on the part of the Contractors, standing forth the Advocates of those whose conduct they are appointed to watch over and control, we bring all our conjectures into one point, and ascertain the grand cause of our disappointment to consist primarily, in a confederate and corrupt system of management.

249. The Board of Trade in their Letter to you of the 8th July 1785, say that if an Order on the Treasury were issued for 33 (thirty three) Lacks at 8 P. Cent Interest in addition to the Goods expected on account of former Balances, estimated at C. Rs. 76,92,638 (seventy six Lacs, ninety two thousand six hundred & thirty eight) they would more than complete the loading of 7 Ships in proper time, at the rate of 13½ (thirteen and a half) Lacs P. Ship and in their subsequent Letter of the 21st July, they continue strenuously of the same Opinion, declaring further, that tho' these expected Funds might not be wholly depended upon within the time prescribed, yet the 33 (thirty three) Lacs would provide for such a contingency; the order for the 33 (thirty three) Lacs upon the terms proposed was issued; but instead of our receiving 7 Cargoes at 13½ (thirteen and a half) Lacs each to the amount of Curr. Rups. 94,50,000 (ninety four Lacs fifty thousand) we have realized but 6 Cargoes at the low average of 11,03,562 (eleven Lacs, three thousand, five hundred & sixty two) each, amounting only to 66,03,562 (sixty six Lacs three thousand five hundred & sixty two) making 28,46,438 (twenty eight Lacs, forty six thousand, four hundred & thirty eight) short of the expected total.

250. This failure is attributed by the Board of Trade, principally to the delay of the Order for the 33 (thirty three) Lacs and to Tuncaws not having been granted on the Revenues for the liquidation of the Interest draughts issued on account of the Investment.

251. To the first we must observe, that altho', in their Letter of the 6th July 1785, they remark that a delay in issuing the Order of the 33 (thirty three) Lacks would be liable to frustrate the purpose of completing the loading of the 7 Ships before the close of February, yet in consequence of their Letter of the 8th July entered on your Consultations of the 18th again urging the issuing the Treasury Orders, an immediate tender was made them of 25 (twenty five) Lacks under certain express conditions, one of which was that they should have 7 complete Cargoes ready before the 28th February.—To which they reply on the 21st that 33 (thirty three) Lacs would answer every contingency; accordingly on the 26th only 5 days elapsing an Order was issued for 25 (twenty five) Lacs to enable the Board of Trade to complete the loading of 7 Ships before the end of February, and the order for completing this sum of 33 (thirty three) Lacs was issued on the 23rd Septemr. in consequence of a Letter from that Board of the 16th August, in which last Letter no doubts are expressed of the performance of the conditions; from all which we infer, that their first plea was merely urged to palliate their own conduct in not having performed their engagements, as we never can suppose that a delay of 5 days in issuing the Orders for 25 (twenty five) out of 33 (thirty three) Lacks, especially when they knew on the 18th July they might depend upon the 25 Lacks at least, could have any material operation, on the total amount of the Investment.

252. It appears however very extraordinary to us, that the Letter from the Board of Trade of the 8th July should not have been read in Council till the 18th nor that of the 16th August recorded till

the 23rd September; the importance of the Subject most undoubtedly demanded your immediate attention, and it was your duty to have brought it into discussion without a day's delay.

253. With regard to the Second plea urged by the Board of Trade in justification of their conduct, vizt: your refusal to grant Tuncaws on the Revenues in liquidation of the Interest draughts, issued on account of the Investment, we must remark, that the granting of such Tuncaws made no part of the conditions under which they engaged to procure Cargoes to the extent beforementioned, neither as you observed to them in your Letter of the 21st December 1785 had the Contractors any right to expect them, as when they made their engagements they knew the mode of payments was to be by Interest Notes.—If therefore instead of harassing Government with repeated applications for Tuncaws on the Revenues, in discharge of Interest Notes, which it is acknowledged by the Board of Trade themselves in their Letter of the 23rd December the Contractors were not strictly authorized to expect and it was out of the power of Government to issue, consistently with the superior calls of the Army, and the Supplies to the other Settlements, the Board of Trade had employed their time in endeavouring to recover the outstanding balances, and in urging the contractors to a performance of their engagements, under the most determined threats in case of failure of levying the penalties, they would have acted much more agreeably to the nature of their Institution, and we might not now have been complaining of so great a deficiency in the expected amount of the last year's Investment; but that they should repeat their demands for Tuncaws after you had issued your Proclamation of the 29th December that the Paper circulation should be discharged according to priority of date, was both distressing and insulting.

254. We cannot avoid in this place remarking on the inconsistency & partiality of your conduct in agreeing on the 28th December, to Mr. Droz's request for a Tuncaw to the amount of 60,000 (sixty thousand) Rupees to enable him to repair to England, to settle his private Affairs after you had repeatedly refused to issue Tuncaws for the purpose of procuring the Company's Investment. And to whom was this improper indulgence shewn? to one of the Members of that Board which had solicited you in vain for Tuncaws on account of the Investment, and with whose official conduct, in conjunction with his Colleagues you had so much reason to be dissatisfied. And as though you were conscious of the impropriety of your conduct herein, you have not thought proper to mention the circumstance in any of your Letters to the Court of Directors.

255. We shall now speak of your Proceedings respecting the Winterton, which it was agreed to dispatch home with private Merchandize for want of Goods to furnish a Cargo on account of the Company.—On the 24th February last your publication was issued for the receipt of Goods into the Export Ware-house on private account, to be sent to Europe limiting the time of such receipts to the 12th March following. On the 28th the Merchants informed you that they were possessed of Goods to a considerable amount, but

which could not be entirely ready in so short a time and desiring to be allowed to the 25th. Upon which you agreed to extend the term, and accordingly ordered the Board of Trade to amend their Advertisement.—Instead of issuing the amended Advertisement they informed you that if this prolongation of the period were allowed to operate on the sole receipt of Goods of the Company's immediate Investment, and privileged Silk, a Sufficiency of Goods would be realized by that period for the loading of the Winterton, and proposing therefore that the further advertisement should be withheld, and even the recent publication on the Subject withdrawn, in order that the whole of the Tonnage of the Winterton might be occupied on the *Company's Account* To which you replied that having pledged the faith of Government to the Merchants of the settlement you could not recede, but we positively deny that the faith of Government was pledged by the Advertizement of the 24th February, further than to the 15th March, and from the moment the Merchants declared their inability to be ready by that period, and desired an extension of the term; from that moment all Obligations on the part of Government ceased, and it was your indispensable duty to have loaded the Winterton, solely with Goods on the Company's account, in order to lessen the disappointment which you knew must be felt in Europe by the Investment falling so far short of its expected and promised amount.

256. In the 14th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 25th March last, you endeavour to palliate your misconduct by saying that *perhaps* the Merchants had made arrangements to a considerable amount in consequence of your Resolutions; but did it not occur to you that on the 3rd day after your first publication, they solicited an extension of the term? What considerable arrangements therefore could they possibly have made in so short a period, and under the uncertainty too of your agreeing to the extension solicited? In the 17th Para: of the same Letter you say further, that if the faith of Government was not *formally pledged* to the Merchants, they were induced to form their arrangements in consequence of the Advertizement issued and must have been considerable sufferers if you had *disappointed* them after those Arrangements were made; but was the disappointment which *Individuals* were likely to sustain to be put in competition with the disappointment the *Company* would *certainly* experience and which in your Letters to the Board of Trade of the 21st December 1785 and in your Letter to the Court of Directors of the 7th March last, you affect so much to lament. The other inducements for your extraordinary conduct as stated in the 15th Paragraph of the same Letter, are under all the circumstances of the case too trifling to need our further notice. Upon the whole therefore we have to lament, that owing to the interested connivance of the Board of Trade in the breach of the Contractors engagements on the one hand, and to the unwarrantable preference given by the Governor General and Council to the interest of Individuals over that of the Company on the other hand, we have received an Investment to the amount only of 66 (sixty six) Lacs when we had every reason to expect it would have exceeded 94 (ninety four) and one of our freighted Ships is suffered to be laden with private Merchandize while Company's Goods to the amount of C. Rs. 19,50,000 (nineteen

lacks fifty thousand) were actually lying in the Export Warehouse at the very time of her departure!

257. In the Letter from the Board of Trade of the 25th March last, which acquainted us with this quantity of Goods being in Warehouse, they observe that the same was collected in the course of the Months of February and March, by the Industry of the Chiefs, Residents, & Contractors who upon their (the Board of Trade) repeated & peremptory requisitions strenuously exerted their endeavours for the realization of the Company's Investment. Upon which we shall only remark, that the same peremptory requisitions on the part of this Board if urged from the beginning, would most probably have been followed by equally strenuous exertions on the part of the Chiefs, Residents & Contractors.—The consequences are obvious, the whole Investment would have been sent to Europe—the Board of Trade would in this instance have deserved praise instead of Censure, and you yourselves would not have been included in that censure for preferring the Interest of Individuals to that of the East India Company.

258. You are not to understand by any thing in the preceding Paragraphs, that we mean to authorize the detention of our Ships in India beyond their Charterparty time; on the contrary now that the Investment is restored to its old period of provision, we shall expect their Dispatch in proper Season; Nor do we mean to prohibit your lading private Merchandize on any of our freighted Ships, when through unavoidable circumstances there may be a deficiency of Goods to be shipped on account of the Company. And you will consider this as a direct answer to the latter part of the 17th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 25th March last.

259. In the course of our examination into this unpleasant subject, we remarked the difficulty you had, in obtaining from the Board of Trade an Account of the outstanding Balances.—Your Apprehensions as expressed in your Letter to the Board of Trade of the 13th February last, that the Court of Directors would be alarmed at the enormous amount thereof, were but too well founded; these Balances are stated as follows,

Current Balances	Recoverable balances	Doubtful	Desperate	Total.
C. Rs. 33,70,855	12,87,937	3,92,752	14,16,368	69,67,314 [sic]

And we observe that a very small part of those even under the head of *recoverable*, can entirely be depended on.

260. As the Company have suffered so much of late years in the provision of their Bengal Investment, both as to the price & quality of the Goods, and have experienced so recent a disappointment in its expected amount, we think it our indispensable duty to direct that a most minute investigation be immediately made into the cause of these Balances, that the origin of them be explained and that the periods in which they arose be accurately stated; with the names of the Contractors, or others who may prove to be the Defaulters. An Account of the names of the Securities must likewise be obtained. And after you shall have received every possible information upon

the subject, we direct that Suits be forthwith commenced in the Supreme Court of Judicature both against the principals and their Securities for the recovery of their respective Balances, in all such Cases wherein you may see a probable chance of success. By such a conduct, joined to the other measures which are pursuing, both in India and in Europe, for the discovery of frauds and abuses in the management of the Investment, it will be seen that we are really in earnest in our endeavours to bring about a complete reform, in this very important branch of our Concerns.

261. Your Proceedings on the Death of Mr. Kellican, the head Assistant in the Export Warehouse, have held him up to us in three capacities first as a Contractor for himself, Second as an Agent for a Contractor,—and third—as one of the Parties, tho' in an inferior degree appointed to examine the Goods received from the Contractors. In fact we think we do not err in considering Mr. Kellican as an intermediate Link in that Chain which united the late Board of Trade, and the Contractors in one common Bond of reciprocal advantage. We have already in our beforementioned Letter of the 12th April last restricted the Members of the Board of Trade, and the respective Commercial Residents from being contractors for the Investment, and we hereby extend that restriction to all such persons as may in their Official capacity, be in any wise concerned in receiving the Goods from the Contractors, such as the Export Warehouse Keeper his Assistants &c.

262. We shall conclude our remarks on this head by referring you to the sentiments & directions contained in our Letter of the 12th April 1786, in which we communicated to you, our general Ideas upon the subject of the Investment, and most earnestly do we wish that the Company may reap greater advantages, under the management of the new Board of Trade which has been instituted in consequence of our Letter of the 21st September 1785 than they have hitherto received under the old System. We are the more sanguine in this expectation, from a consideration that all their Proceedings are to be subject to the Superintendence and control of the Governor General and Council, in whom is to rest the ultimate responsibility.

263. Application having been made to us by Mr. Robert Heaven for permission to proceed to Bengal to apply himself to the cultivation and improvement of Sugar, Cotton & Indigo, and being well satisfied with the qualifications of Mr. Heaven who for thirteen years past has employed his talents in the culture of those valuable articles in the West Indies, we have permitted him to proceed to your Presidency and remain there five years under the usual Covenants and restrictions enter'd into by Persons allowed to proceed to India to practice in the way of their profession, except as to Trade which he is to be permitted to carry on, only in the particular articles of Indigo, Sugar and Cotton of his own manufacture and that in common with every other person engaged in the same pursuits, without being granted any particular or exclusive privileges, that may in any measure tend to a monopoly in those Articles. Mr. Heaven's Covenants will be sent a Number in the Packet.

264. We have attended to your representation, concerning our Orders for reducing the Residency at Jungypore, and from the

circumstances therein set forth, as well as from the favourable opinion we entertain of Mr. Peter Speke the late Resident, we consent to its being re-established, observing however at the same time that you confine the expences thereof to the smallest possible scale.

265. In respect to the Residency of Soonamooky, which is also withdrawn in pursuance of our Orders, we leave it to our Governor General & Council to determine thereon, as from their local knowledge they shall judge the most suitable for our interest.

266. As the late Board of Trade is now abolished, and the new Board as well as the provision of the Investment in general is by our Regulations of the 12th April last placed upon an entire new System, the application from that Board contained in the 58th & 59th Paragraphs of their Letter of the 4th August 1785, for an increase of their allowances does not need replying to.

267. The Report of the Export Warehouse keeper as mentioned in the 9th Paragraph of the late Board of Trade's Letter of the 7th February 1786, in reply to the several points on which he was directed to afford the necessary information, called for in the 48th and 52nd Paragraphs of our Letter of the 11th April 1785, having been under our consideration, we have to remark thereon, that it opens to our view a fresh and most striking instance, of the mismanagement, that seems to have prevailed in conducting every part of our Commercial concerns, and proves also that our inferior Servants in that Department, if not equally corrupt have at least been as unmindful and inattentive to their duty as their Superiors. We particularly allude to the circumstance of the change of weights stated by the Export Warehousekeeper to have taken place in the latter end of the year 1778 immediately before (instead of shortly after as he states) Mr. Guinands succession to the Export Warehouse when the weight of the Factory Seer, by which all weighable Goods were received, which should be 72 Sicca—an 7 Pie but as called by Mr. Parry when in charge of that Office and also by his Successor Mr. Guinand at 72 Sicca 10 An. becomes reduced to the weight of 72 Siccas only.

268. The Weights we understand to be the most in use in Bengal in all mercantile transactions, are the Buzar Maund, and Factory Maund. The Buzar Maund of 80 Sicca Wt. to the Seer, being 10 P. Cent better than the Factory Maund, reduces the Factory Seer to 72 Sicca 11 an 7 pie, which for brevity of speech is termed in the ordinary course of business, the Seer of 72 Siccas, to distinguish it from the Buzar Seer of 80 Siccas. The Export Warehousekeeper calls this the Europe Standard and observes that<sup>d</sup> previous to the latter end of 1778 all weighable Goods were received by this Standard, but that at that period the common appellation of 72 Siccas having been inserted in the Contract for Silk, probably from the Company's Law Officers who drew them, not being sufficiently conversant in the Country weights, the Contractors upon the discovery availed themselves of the letter thereof, and altho' they had been delivering as customary upon the Warehouse weight, they demand to be refunded the difference between the nominal and the real weight delivered, which the Board of Trade very readily submit to, and the Export Warehousekeeper with as little ceremony discards the old weights

and introduces a new Set upon the Scale of 72 Siccas only Reckoning the seer at 72 Sicca 11an 7 Pie it brings the Maund to exactly 74. lbs 66 deces. or  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the English hundred weight At 72 Siccas it is 73 lbs 99 deces. only. The difference is—67 lbs deces. of a pound or equal to 1 lb in every hundred weight.

269. It appears therefore that in the valuable articles of Raw Silk and Indigo and possibly in every other article of weighable goods, we have been annually losing 1 lb weight in every 112 lbs. at an expence of not less than from one to two thousand pounds Sterling P. Annum for the last seven years, without any one person in our Service having Zeal, honesty, or discernment, enough to discover it. The resolution of the Board of Trade that for the future in all engagements for Goods deliverable by the Factory Maund, the Maund shall be rated agreeable to the Europe Standard of 72.11.7 Sicca weight the Factory seer being the proportion of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Maund or 60 seers to the English hundred, avoirdupoise wt. or 112 lbs. is highly proper and we hope will be strictly adhered to.

270. We have further to remark on the subject of weights, that it was the practice formerly in all Commercial transactions respecting weighable Goods, that if the deliveries were made by the Buzar Maund, the price was rated in Arcot Rupees, of if by the Factory Maund in Current Rupees, and we have no doubt but a custom so rooted and established, remains to the present time in all private Mercantile transactions.

271. In your Contracts for Silk, Indigo &c, we observe that you stipulate to receive Factory Seers and even at an abridged weight, and to pay in Sicca Rupees, by which there is a gain in the difference of Batta and weight, of near 17 P. Cent to the Contractor. We desire to know at what period this new mode respecting the Company crept into practice, and who were the parties instrumental in introducing it.

272. The circumstance we have just mentioned naturally leads us to call your attention to the adoption of a measure that has been long wanted for the safety, security and simplification, of all Commercial transactions in Bengal, we mean the establishing by the authority of Government some fixed and determinate standard, for regulating the weights and measures of that Country. At present so much variation and confusion exists therein, and so different are the distinctions of Rupees and rates of Batta that it becomes a very nice and difficult study to establish a calculation, and unless the subject is completely understood, nothing can be better fitted for the purposes of deception, we cannot point out the necessity of a reformation of this kind more forcibly, than by referring to a minute on this subject recorded on the Consultations by Mr. Francis in the year 1775 which from its pertinency to the subject we shall here insert.

“In every civilized country the regulation of Weights & Measures is considered as an object of the utmost importance to Society, it is not, or ought not to be left to an *arbitrary* or *fluctuating* agreement among Individuals; let the nature of the Government be what it may, the rule, by which the proportionate value of almost every Article

of Traffic is adjusted, should unquestionably be fixed, and determined, by the governing power. It is equally certain that for the benefit of the Public it is not only expedient to reduce weight and measure to some fixed standard but that this Standard should if possible, be the same throughout the whole extent of any Country or State and invariably adhered to.

The necessity of establishing and enforcing the observance of such a Standard, will I believe appear nowhere more obvious and urgent than in these Provinces. I am far from pretending to be completely Master of the question, when I submit my thoughts to the Board on this or any other subject of importance, it is rather with a view of obtaining, than of communicating Information, and to draw their attention to objects which appear to me to deserve it.

The Maund by which the specific quantity of things in the great [sic] is supposed to be ascertained, is a vague and indeterminate Weight. I hear of a Factory Maund and a Buzar Maund, a pukka Maund, and a Cutcha Maund all differing greatly in the Contents even from 58 to 92 Sicca Weight of which 40 compose the Maund. The intermediate divisions of weight between the highest & lowest of these nominal Maunds are infinite. I am informed that in Calcutta where there is not any actual weight to represent the Maund, the English hundred weight of 112 lbs. Avoir dupoise is frequently used, and estimated at the rate of one Maund and half that in distant parts of the Country, there is a weight they call a Maund and which is represented by a lump of Iron, Lead or Brass and sometimes by a block of Stone; but I do not find that the larger Standard weights have anywhere, or at any time been established by the authority of Government, the smaller of which none I believe exceeds five seer (something more than 10 lb Avoir dupoise) tho' they formerly received the sanction of a Stamp, have lately I believe been not very strictly examined or smaller of which none I believe exceeds five seer (something more Sicca Rupee (or 7dwts 11 2/3 gr) and this is still universally considered by the Natives as the Standard of Weight.

With respect to measures I cannot learn that there has been any fixed Standard attended to, even in the great public concerns of the Company in this Country, vizt. in Salt or Chunam. I understand on these the dimensions of the measure have differed materially in different places, and that, even in the same places they have occasionally differed with the Seasons; in the transactions of Individuals there is no appearance of any real or even pretended regularity.

A Shopkeeper has one measure for buying, another for selling, and both one & the other differ from those of his Neighbour. The Vessels used upon these occasions, whether earthen Pots or Bamboo Baskets, are made, sold and applied to the purpose of measuring without any examination on the part of the Civil Magistrate or any Officer of Government; stating the Facts establishes the necessity of an early reformation. So gross a defect in a most important branch of the Police, should not be suffer'd to continue, especially as I conceive that it requires nothing but the advice of some skilful persons

drawing up an uniform regulation on this subject, and a moderate degree of resolution to carry it into execution. •

I presume it is of little moment what the standard of weight and measure is, provided it be known and invariably enforced.

The Governor and Mr. Barwell's superior local knowledge will enable them to point out to the Board what precautions should be taken to preserve a strict conformity of all Weights and measures thro' the Provinces to the Standard once fixed by Government, and to what Officers the care of this business should be entrusted."

273. This minute was ordered to lie for consideration, but the subject does not appear to have been resumed, owing it is probable to the unhappy dissensions which so long prevailed at that Board and which of course drew the attention of the parties to objects more immediately pressing. As we are not aware of any obstacles against carrying such a measure into effect, but on the contrary conceive that it may be productive of many beneficial advantages, as well to ourselves as to every description of Persons engaged in Commercial concerns throughout the Provinces under our authority, we direct that our Supreme Board do as soon as convenient take the subject under consideration, and that they obtain from among our Servants or others whom they shall deem most competent thereto, the necessary materials and information on the subject for enabling them to frame and digest such a plan as may be best suited to accomplish the grand Object we have in view, in the easiest and most simple way possible to be effected, and that they communicate to us the result of their Proceedings therein.

274. As it probably may be some time before the above wished for measure, can be planned and carried into effect, we have caused to be framed three Sets of weights of the Factory Maund of 74  $\frac{2}{3}$  lb avoirdupoise and its several fractional parts of seers & Chuttucks one of which we desire may be deposited in some safe situation under care of our Supreme Board, to serve as a Standard when there shall be occasion to refer thereto, and the others to be taken into use, in the Export and Import Warehouse from which should there be occasion, others can be very easily made.

275. We have noticed what has been offer'd by the Export Warehousekeeper, in reply to the complaints made in our Letter of the 11th April last on the subject of false package and deficiencies in lengths & breadths which we cannot admit to be that full exculpation the Board of Trade deem it. So far as concerns the Goods provided at the Factories & Residencies the responsibility no doubt from the explanations he has afforded, must rest with the respective Chiefs and Residents, who provide those Goods, and we shall not fail to hold them accountable accordingly; but it must be observed that a considerable part of the Investment, is provided at the Aurungs, when the whole detail of the business concerning them, is conducted at the Export Warehouse, our censure therefore was by no means ill applied as the particular instances we pointed out to corroborate the justness of our complaint, was in Goods of that description, We trust we shall not have future cause of the like complaint

and we approve of the directions that were issued by the late Board of Trade, to the several Subordinates & Residencies on the subject.

276. In our General Letter of the 11th April 1785 we communicated to you some Observations in the management of the Brass Cog Wheels & Crossing Machines used in the winding of Raw Silk, and desired that some of those which had been worn out might be sent home noting how long they had been in use, in order that by inspecting into their defects it might be discovered whether any and what means could be adopted to remedy the same. We observe that the late Board of Trade issued the necessary Orders on the subject, to the different Factories and Aurungs, and we were led to expect we might have received some of them by the returning Ships, yet notwithstanding six months had elapsed between the receipt of our Orders and the dispatch of the last Ship of the season, we have been disappointed therein; we are therefore again under the necessity of repeating those Orders, and expect that a due attention be paid thereto, as also to those on the same subject under dates the 8th July 1785, 12th April and 21st July last.

277. If you shall be of Opinion the premises at present occupied as an Export Warehouse upon a Lease from Mr. Charles Purling which expires in 1788 are as fitting for the purpose and are rented upon as easy terms as are likely to be obtained from any other person, who has premises to let that will be equally suitable, we admit of your renewing the said Lease for a further five years, but if you shall find that any building fitting for the purpose can be obtained on more reasonable terms, we direct that Mr. Purling's premises be given up at the expiration of the first existing Lease.

278. In the 20th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 3rd July last you inform us that in consequence of your not approving of the terms of the Advertisements for proposals for supplying the Investment of 1786/7 as issued by the Board of Trade, you had directed them to publish an amended one, omitting the parts you disapproved, which they had accordingly done, and excluded the 8th and 9th clauses in consequence. They say of your peremptory requisition, tho' by no means concurring with you in the reasons urged against them.

279. We approve of your conduct in resisting the arguments advanced by the Board of Trade for making the advertisements a partial one but at the same time we concur with the Board of Trade respecting Native Contractors being prohibited from supplying Foreigners with Goods; and we accordingly direct that in every future advertisement for the provision of our Investment, notice be given that Clauses will be inserted to bind the Native Contractors as well as others from supplying Foreigners with Goods under certain restrictions. Indeed we have already provided for this, in our General Letter of the 12th April last, to which we refer you for your guidance on the future provision of our Investment in general.

280. Until we shall be in possession of the materials referred to in the 28th Paragraph of your said Letter, we postpone the coming to any ultimate decision on your conduct respecting the measures adopted in the provision of the said Investment of 1786/7, we observe

that you mention you have in "many (you add) indeed in almost every instance given the preference to the proposals of the Old Contractors, servants of the Company, but that in so doing you were not biassed by partiality or favor, but on the contrary were entirely influenced by a regard to our interests which otherwise would have been sacrificed by the Competition of new adventurers and the Old Contractors." It will afford us much satisfaction, upon the receipt of those materials should we see no reason to hold a contrary opinion, yet we cannot avoid expressing that already we do not entirely approve of some of the principles upon which you have acted. We approve much of your having warned the Proposers and their Securities, in case of a failure of their engagements the penalties of double the amount of the failure, would be most scrupulously exacted, and we trust you will not omit to carry the same into effect. Your second principle however we do by no means subscribe to the propriety of, namely

"That whenever there shall be a competition between a Company's Servant in a Commercial Employ and a Native or any European not in the Company's Service the amount which the Company will have to pay for the subsistence of their own servants if unemployed be considered in the lowest proposal." This however plausible we do not conceive to be just. The sum we shall have to pay our Commercial Servant out of employ, is a temporary contingency, and can only be placed to the cost of the Goods, upon the same general principle that will place the whole charges of the Commercial Establishment to the general head of the Investment. Our views are to obtain our purchases in the first instance at the lowest rates at which they can be fairly purchased, the charges which afterwards accrue upon the same are a separate consideration. It must also be remarked that the allowance to our Commercial Servants, would cease, as fast as opportunities should offer of placing them in suitable Stations, whereby such Allowances would revert to the Company, at present the Company are debarred from profiting by such events to be derived from the Goods provided by them, the lawful profits to be derived from the Goods provided by them, the Sums the Company would have had to allow them, if out of employ, while at the same time they are continued in their Stations and thereby render'd incapable of succeeding to any other vacant employ that might happen. This expence therefore in fact becomes entailed upon the Company, tho' not apparently by being sunk in the nominal cost of the Goods.

281. The two other general rules you laid down were consistent and are approved.

282. The various reasons you offer for having rejected the proposals of Messrs Keighly & Collins for the provision of the whole of the Investment, very fully meet our concurrence.

283. We postpone deciding upon the reasons you offer for rejecting the proposals from Natives, until we have the whole of your Proceedings before us, We must nevertheless remark that if Foreigners and Individuals can be supplied on such terms as shall

produce in Europe a remittance of 3s 9d the Rupee as we learn to have been the fact, it must be from their availing themselves of such offers from the Natives, as you have thought proper to reject for the *lowness* of the proposals, we cannot however pass over the one where you represent the difficulties, which new contractors will have to encounter at the then advanced Season of the year, of providing the Goods within the prescribed periods tho' in actual possession of the Factories and Aurungs. This is a powerful argument which whenever urged with propriety cannot fail to have due weight, yet we were in hopes that after having experienced it as a difficulty, for two successive seasons, the needful measures would have been taken in sufficient time to have prevented its being again brought forward with effect. In respect to the very superior Ties by which you remark our Servants are bound, namely in addition to the security, given by them, the being powerfully restricted from supplying Foreigners as well by an Act of the Legislature as the dread of the loss of the Service, we are sorry to lament that those ties do not appear to have had any material effect upon some of them, as we have had occasion to mention in a former part of this address. You also add that the great object of advertizing for proposals, namely that of ascertaining the lowest prices, has been accomplished, but we must observe that this is by no means the case; It is of little consequence to us to know at what price Goods are to be obtained, unless we can reduce that knowledge to practice.

284. We can on no account consent to allowing an increase of price to any of the articles which compose our Investment, we the [sic] rather expect that considerable reductions will be made therein, upon the new system which we have adopted in order to combine the interests of our Servants with that of our own, in one common Bond. This will serve as a full reply to the recommendation in your Letter of the 4th August 1785 of the case of Mr. Grueber for the difference of price he solicits upon the provision of 1784/5 and if contrary to our expectations the late Board of Trade shall have taken upon themselves to comply therewith, we direct that you call upon such of the Members as were consenting thereto to make good to us the amount of such difference so allowed to Mr. Grueber, and that you acquaint us whether the same is complied with.

285. In consideration of the attentive manner in which you represent Mr. Grueber has conducted himself while in the Chiefship of Luckypore, particularly in his exertions for restoring the fabrick of the Goods provided there, in which we are glad to find he has not been altogether unsuccessful, we consent to his holding that Chiefship from the period at which you have agreed to fix the commencement thereof, and we trust this mark of our favor towards that Gentleman will have its due weight upon his future conduct.

#### Raw Silk

286. We refer you to our General Letter of the 11th April for the quantities and assortments of this article that we wish to be annually provided with, and expect that a due attention will be paid thereto.

287. We have taken into our consideration the Report of Mr. James Frushard on the subject of the first cost of this article as referred to by the late Board of Trade in the 2nd Paragraph of their Letter of the 7th March last and having compared the same with some information on the same subject, with which we had been previously put in possession, the particulars of which were communicated to you in our Letter of the 21st July last, we have to observe thereon that if the late Board of Trade in recommending the said Report to our consideration, as corresponding with their own sentiments and experience, intend that we should infer what is therein implied, that 9 (nine) Sonnt. Rupees the Seer of 80 Sicca weight is the best possible terms on which Silk for the Company is to be obtained, they have not scrupled to sacrifice their own judgement in order to pass an imposition upon ours, as it could not have escaped the notice of that Board that neither Interest of Money or wear and tear of Buildings, could form any part of a Contractor's charges who receives the whole amount of his Contract by previous advances, and the execution of which is carried on in buildings erected by the Company and solely appropriated for such purpose.

288. It is also to be remarked that if it is admitted as a Fact that Cocoons are not obtainable under the prices set forth by Mr. Frushard and that the charges of winding are calculated upon the lowest scale, still the adding an interest of 12 P. Cent to the first cost even of his own Silk is liable to a very strong objection, as it is reckoning the interest of a whole year whereas by his own Report he was to pay interest only from the time of receiving his advances to the delivery of the Silk, we can scarce imagine that Board to have been ignorant that Silk manufactured from the November Bund (the Bund stated by Mr. Frushard) would be ready for delivery by the middle of January, at which time of course the Interest would cease before it grew to 3 P. Cent. instead of 12 as stated, we however rather incline to think if Interest of Money is to form a charge, that from the manner in which the advances for the provision of our Investment is made it would with more propriety form an article on the Contra side of a Contractors account.

289. Taking however the cost of the Silk upon Mr. Frushard's Statement without Interest vizt. 8 (eight) Sonnaut Rupees the Seer of 80 Sicca weight and comparing it with the prices at which the Company's Contracts have been made, vizt. 11 Sicca Rupees 10 anns. the Seer of 72 Sicca weight which was the lowest price, before the reduction, and at 8 Sicca Rupees 12 Annas the Seer of the same weight, being the reduced price it appears that the Contractors profits

Before the reduction were upwards of . . . . . 69 P. Cent

And since Before the reduction were upwards of . . . . . 27 P. Cent.

or if the calculation is made upon the terms communicated to you as we before observed on the 21st July last.

Before the reduction . . . . . 86 P. Cent and

Since Before the reduction . . . . . 40 P. Cent

and this too allowing that their Silk had been of a choice quality, but as the event of the sales has proved it to have been notoriously otherwise, the deduction is a fair one that their profits have been still considerably larger.

290. Mr. Frushard has estimated his Silk to sell in England for £ 25 the great pound. It has not yet been sold but from what we have seen of it, it appears to be of a quality superior to any yet sent from Bengal and may be reasonably expected to produce much more than that sum, but reckoning even upon that, it appears that after adding to its prime Cost.

First an Interest of

12 P. Cent

Then overrating the Batta upon the prime Cost and Interest by reducing the Sonauts into Current Rupees at 14 instead of 11 P. Cent and adding to the whole a Respondentia Premium of 8 P. Cent which three articles is upon the first cost nearly equal to

25 P. do

Also making a deduction from the weight at its out-turn in England of 3 lb upon 98 lb as certain which he himself states but to be eventual, and which from an experiment made upon 180 Bales by different Ships there is not found to be a difference scarcely of one pound, which is a further 2 P. Cent on the prime Cost

2 P. Cent

And lastly deducting from the produce at the sale 7 P. Cent for the Company's duties which is nearly equal to 11 P. Cent on its first cost making upwards on the prime Cost

11 P. do  
2 P. Cent

it is notwithstanding calculated to produce a remittance of 2 s. 1.86 d. or near 2 s. 2 d. the Current Rupee while the Company's Silk which if reckoned upon Mr. Frushard's cost, without being subject to any of the above charges ought to have netted 2s. 9.87 d. decimis [decimals] or near 2 s. 10 d. the Current Rupee has but with few exceptions as will be seen upon reference to an Account in the Right Hon'ble the Governor General's possession, turned out not more than 1 s. 1 d. the Rupee.

291. Under these impressions we cannot avoid concluding, that it was from a consciousness that their conduct respecting the provision of this article would not bear the test of enquiry, that the Board of Trade were so very reluctant in furnishing the information we so directedly and pointedly called for in September 1783. Had they been disposed to have paid an unreserved obedience thereto, such information could as easily and as effectually been obtained when first demanded as at any future period. Mr. Droz and Mr. Keighly were both Members of the Board and had executed such considerable Contracts for Silk, that the knowledge and experience they must have thereby gained, rendered them in a very particular manner qualified to have furnished every necessary information. Messrs Speke, Taylor, Pote, Crommelin, Dinely, Touchet and many other Servants immediately under the authority and control of that Board, had been also concerned in extensive Silk works. These Gentlemen if called upon collectively or individually were bound by the duty they owed to the Company to have afforded every information on the subject, yet instead of applying to any of them for such purpose the Board after being more than eight months in possession of the Courts Orders, not thinking it altogether prudent or safe to pass over the subject in

silence, yet at the same time willing to be rid of it, with the least appearance of design, they take upon themselves "to conceive that our Orders must relate to the price of Silk as it stood prior to 1782, and does not apply to the reduction which then obtained and is now established," but as if afraid to trust themselves wholly to this construction which they affect to give to the Court's Orders, they go a step further and promise that nevertheless an inquiry shall be set on foot, and that the result thereof shall be transmitted upon an abstract and general ground.

292. It appears to us that nothing but a wilful desire of evasion could have led the late Board of Trade to pass such an interpretation on the Court's Orders, as had they seriously and attentively considered the subject, it must have occurred to them that those Orders were given at a period when the Court were fully acquainted with the reduction that had taken place in the price of Raw Silk, and that of course their object must have been to discover whether the article was not capable (as the fact has since turned out) of bearing still further reduction.

293. We may also fairly conclude that after what the Board of Trade had already offered, it was not their intention to have resumed the subject, had they not found themselves so closely pressed on the subject because from March 1784 when the original orders of September 1783, reached Bengal to Jan'y 1786 when the Orders of the 8th July 1785, reminding them of the preceding ones arrived, not a single step appears to have been taken to comply therewith. That such information was obtainable with but little difficulty is apparent as Mr. Frushard altho' not called upon till the 31st January 1786, delivers in a minute report on the 15th February following. Mr. Frushard had been so very little time in Bengal that he could have possessed no peculiar abilities for supplying this information beyond that of any other person who had a knowledge on the subject. Upon other occasions when it suits their views the Board of Trade can with a warmth of Zeal dwell upon the advantages the Company's servants possess, from their long experience and great skill in Commercial concerns beyond *Adventurers*. We are astonished therefore that the Board of Trade should not have suffered the Company to benefit by this knowledge and experience in the Company's Servants upon the present occasion, instead of calling upon a person who however great may have been his scientific knowledge, and however assiduously he might have applied himself for the short time of his standing in the Service, as well as benefited by the advice and assistance of the most experienced men in the Silk Trade, as well among the natives as his friends, yet from being new in the business of the Country as he has very properly expressed himself, he was qualified to give no other information than merely the outturn of the first Undertaking of an Infant Establishment, referring to an unpracticed Individual when there were so many experienced Men in the Country, was at once indecent to ourselves, and shews too plainly the views of the parties in so doing.

294. We mentioned in our Letter of the 21st July last, that we should send out from this Country a person properly qualified to

superintend the receiving the article of Raw Silk who was to be stationed in the Export Warehouse for such purpose. We were in hopes to have been provided with such a person to send out by the Ships of the present Season, but not having had an opportunity of suiting ourselves to our satisfaction, the measure must be postponed till some future period. In the mean time we enjoin our Board of Trade and the Officers under them, concerned in the receipt of Silk, to be very attentive seeing that no Silk is taken for the Company of a quality different from the Samples sent out by the Dutton in April 1785, as we repeat the assurances contained in that Letter, that whatever shall be found differing therefrom will be returned, and the parties offending be made responsible to us, for all losses and charges accruing thereon.—The very unbecoming manner in which those former Orders are remarked upon by the late Board of Trade in their Proceedings of the 4th October 1785 vizt that in the process laid down they should perform their duty as faithful and obedient servants for enforcing the ends intended, but that to incur the further responsibility specified therein, would be to render themselves accountable for consequences liable to arise from prejudice or error either here or at home, and be repugnant to the relation in which they stand to the Company as their Servants, is too insulting to merit a reply.

295. We transmit you in the Packet Messrs Tatlock's observations on the Silk sold at the last March and September Sales\*, as also Catalogues filled up with the prices at which each lot sold which we recommend to your very serious perusal and attention. The Company's Silk appears to have sold in the last Sale from 14 s. 4 d. to 28 s. 6 d. the great lb and that in privilege from 16 s. 8 d. to 31 s. 10 d.

The Average of the Company's is	20 s. 3 d.
That in privilege	23 s. 3 d.

### Salt Petre

296. The Contract entered into with the Chief of Patna in 1783, for the Investment of refined Salt Petre, has been under our consideration, and we shall here give you our remarks thereon.

297. The Letter from the Supreme Council to the late Board of Trade of 5th August 1782 appears to have first suggested the process of refining Salt Petre in Bengal in the Company's Account.

298. The Agent for the Manufacture of Gunpowder in a Letter which accompanied the above, informed the Supreme Council that an experiment had been made by him on a small quantity in the condition in which it was always sent to Europe, which he had brought to as pure a state as that in which it is ever used for any Manufacturer that the process of refining diminished the quantity about one fourth, but that part of the waste might be used for other purposes.

299. On 13th September 1782 an order was issued by the Board of Trade to the Sub Export Warehousekeeper to refine one maund

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 33, 1787-8, pp. 77-84.

of Salt Petre by way of Sample and to give in a particular account of the Charges and waste attending it.

300. On 22nd October following the Sub Export Warehouse-keepers' report was received, by which it appeared that the expence of refining a maund of Salt Petre exclusive of the Charge for the boiling pots used was 12 Annas Sicca, but probably in refining a large quantity it might be something less, that the wastage of Patna Salt Petre was 27 P. Cent but that some part of the Dross might be applied to domestic uses.

301. On 19th November 1782 the Resident at Patna, sent in to the Board of Trade Proposals for contracting for the Investment of Salt Petre in its refined state, at the price of Sicca Rupees 5½ P. Maund to be delivered at Calcutta free of all the Charges of Merchandize & ca, except Factory Servants and Gomastahs wages which proposals were not then determined on.

302. The 5th December 1782, the Board of Trade wrote a Letter to the Supreme Council, in which after declining giving an Opinion on the Sample of refined Petre sent from the Agent for manufacturing Gunpowder they say "you have not acquainted us with the expence that will attend this operation, but if we are to form a judgment from the price of labour, firewood, and Copper Boilers, which must be used for the purpose and other requisite articles, the expence will not be short of three Sicca Rupees P. Maund." On what grounds this calculation was made is not easy to be traced, especially when the Board had so lately received an actual account of the expence from their Sub Export Warehousekeeper amounting as abovementioned to 12 Annas Sicca P. Maund only, exclusive indeed of Copper Boilers but of which there were several in Store at Patna, twelve having been sent there on September 1782.

303. The Board of Trade proceed to refer the Proposals of their Resident at Patna to the Consideration of the Supreme Council, with a recommendation that they be accepted in answer to which the Supreme Council leaving it to their discretion to accept them or not they accordingly on the 7th of January 1783 resolve to accept of those Proposals, and inform the Resident at Patna of their determination.

304. The price of the Salt Petre as formerly provided at Patna was C. Rs. 3.12.3 (three-twelve-three) P. Maund and the Charges of transportation to Calcutta 8 annas 10 Pice making together C. Rs. 4.5.1 (four-five-one) P. Maund as is stated by the Board of Trade in their Letter above quoted, the refined Salt Petre supplied by the Contractor in 1783/4 was Maunds 44,800 @ Sa. Rs. 5.8 P. Maund and the Factory Servants and Gomastahs charged by him thereon Curr. Rupees 14,173-5 (fourteen thousand one hundred & seventy three-five) making together at the rate of C. Rs. 6.11. P. Maund. The price at which it was received at Calcutta was as before observed C. Rs. 4.5.1 to which if the expence of refining as stated by the Sub Export Warehousekeeper is added vizt. C. Rs. 13.11 the difference in favor of the Contractor was C. Rs. 1.8 P. Maund.

305. But this is not the whole difference for the price of C. Rs. 3.12.3 P. Maund at which the Salt Petre was sent down from Patna, was an advance on the prime cost, in so much that taking in the Carconna Charges this advance left a gain thereon (however fictitious) amounting on an average of eight years to 1782/3 to no less than C. Rs. 91,700 (ninety one thousand seven hundred) P. Annum which is above 9/10 of a Rupee Current P. Maund on the Average quantity of Culme Petre made in the above period and makes the real difference in the Contractor's favor Curr. Rupees 2.8 P. Maund.

306. But it may probably be urged that by not taking into the account the waste in refining the above is not fairly stated: we shall therefore consider it in that view.

307. The quantity of refined Petre furnished by the Contractor in 1783/4 was as before observed Maunds 44,800 and supposing one fourth wasted in the process of refining this would have required Maunds of Culme 59,733 say 60,000.

308. This quantity at Current Rs. 4.5.1 P. Maund would amount to C. Rs. 2,59,062, whereas the cost of the 44,800 Maunds of refined Petre sent down by the Contractor, cost C. Rs. 2,99,996 a difference to the Company of C. Rs. 40,000. But this is also calculated on the advanced Price of Salt Petre above noticed, and as the Contractor had the opportunity of getting it at the lowest rate, this advantage by the Contract cannot have been far short of a Lack of Current Rupees besides the profits which may have accrued to him on that part of the Dross he sold for such purposes as had been stated it might be applied to.

309. After the most mature deliberation on the subject, we are of opinion that the Contract for providing refined Salt Petre in the room of the former mode, was improvident and injurious to the Company's Interest, and not considered with sufficient attention by the late Board of Trade when they entered into it.

310. We remarked in our Letter of the 21st September 1785, that the refined Salt Petre, was not Saleable here, and we cannot quit the subject without observing that the remains of Culme & ca, Salt Petre at the time the Contract was entered into the beginning of 1783 continue the same with very small alteration on 31st December 1785, another instance on this subject of the little attention paid to our Interests.

#### Supplementa?

#### Public Department

311. We have lately had under our consideration a Letter from Sir John Day on the subject of his allowances during his acting as the Company's Advocate General at your Presidency; and after very mature deliberation we have come to a resolution and hereby direct, that you apply to the use of the Company the Sum of (77,500) seventy seven thousand five hundred Curr. Rups. deposited in your Treasury by Sir John Day, being of opinion that the same ought not to be returned to him.

312. The Executors of the late Sir John Burgoyne Bart, having addressed a Letter to us requesting we would make enquiry whether the Sum of Star Pagodas (14940) fourteen thousand nine hundred & forty for which you permitted that Gentleman to draw a Bill on you in August 1785 has been paid, and to whom, we direct that you accordingly give the information required to Colonel Floyd or Major Grattan who act for the Executors in India, Copy of the Letter received from them goes a Number in the Packet.\*

313. Our Letter of the 25th March 1772 contained our Orders respecting the return to Europe of our Civil and Military Servants; those Orders were repeated in our Letters of the 30th January and 4th March 1778, and as subsequent experience has proved the propriety and expediency of the Regulation above referred to, we hereby direct you egectually to enforce it on receipt thereof, by again publishing it at the Presidency, at the Subordinates, at the Head of the respective Corps of your Army and at the different Garrisons and further you must acquaint all our Servants Civil and Military that we expect and require strict and implicit obedience to these Orders.

314. We have attentively perused the Papers referred to in the 20th [30th] and following Paragraphs of your Letter in the Secret Department of Inspection of the 9th [24th] March 1786, containing a Proposal from the proprietors of the Bengal Bank for rendering the same of greater public utility, and likewise proposals for the Establishment of a Bank upon a more enlarged Plan than the former, under the denomination of the General Bank of India.<sup>12</sup> We have very great doubts upon our minds respecting the utility of such an Establishment in India. You are therefore to give no countenance or encouragement whatsoever to any plan or plans that have been or may hereafter be laid before you by Individuals for any such establishment and you are not to admit or receive any notes or other engagements from the private Banks as a payment in the collection of our Revenues or in any other department of our publick or commercial concerns.

315. Being ever desirous of promoting the views of Government in the extension of the Commerce & Navigation of the Subjects of this Kingdom as far as may be compatible with the Interest of the Company and the security of the Revenue, we have agreed to allow Ships to proceed and to follow a Whale fishery beyond the Capes of Good Hope and Horn, subject to such reservations and restrictions as are expressed in a License we have granted to the Ship Triumph for that purpose, Copy whereof accompanies this Letter.

316. We have perused your Proceedings relative to the Supply of 30,000 Bags of Rice to the Presidency of Fort St. George through the Agency of Messrs Corbett and Boyd. We should probably have passed silently over those Proceedings if we had not wished you to be perfectly convinced that every measure, and particularly such as may relate to the expenditure of the Company's Money will be scrutinized with the minutest attention,—without meaning therefore to censure you for having acceded to Mr. Boyd's second proposal,

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 33, 1787-8, pp. 71-2.

instead of adopting the first, we shall only observe that as you seemed perfectly convinced of the reasonableness of the first proposal for furnishing the Rice at a certain price in which all Charges were included, you should have adopted it, as you knew the whole extent of the transactions even to a Rupee. We do not mean to dispute the reality of the Charges brought to account by those Gentlemen, but at the same time you must be sensible that when Men are acting for themselves they will in general be much more solicitous to make a prudent bargain, than when they are acting for the public, especially in cases where they are allowed a Commission on the amount of their disbursements. We cannot explain our meaning better than by observing that if you had acceded to the first proposal, the Company would have paid less by Current Rupees 24,000 (twenty four thousand) than they have done by the adoption of the second, which sum in the expenditure of 1,80,000 (one Lack eighty thousand) Rupees is by no means a matter of indifference.

317. We hereby order and direct that whenever any of our Servants Civil & Military shall see occasion to address the Court of Directors, the same be done thro' the regular Channel of the Governor General & Council and not otherwise, and this you will consider as a Standing Order which we have been induced to make in consequence of our having lately received a Letter from a Person in an important Office through private hands.

318. For the satisfaction of the Relations & Friends of our Civil & Military Servants in India, we hereby direct that you transmit to us by every Ship, Lists of Casualties in both Departments that may happen between one Dispatch and another, and at the end of the Season complete Lists of the year, We likewise direct that you furnish us regularly with Copies of the Registers of the Births, Deaths and Marriages amongst the European Inhabitants at your Settlement.

319. In a former part of this Letter we acquainted you, that we had permitted Mr. David Cuming to return to our Civil Service at your Presidency. We have since taken into consideration an application from Mr. Cuming stating his Services & Sufferings and praying that the Bar to his rising in our Service may be removed, and being perfectly satisfied with his character and services we have been induced to comply with his request, and direct, that the Bar to his rising in our service be removed from the day of the arrival of this Letter in Bengal.

320. In consequence of an Application to us for that purpose, we hereby extend the time for the Bondholders at our several Presidencies to signify their acquiescence in the Terms proposed for transferring the Indian Debt to Europe to the 31st December 1787.

321. We have received your several Advices by the Ranger Snow, as all our Freight Shipped of the Season are upon their departure we shall not detain them on Demorage but shall reserve such directions as we may have occasion to give on those Advices for a Packet which we shall shortly dispatch for India.

## Secret Department

322. In making up the Annual Statement of the Company's Affairs at home and abroad, we have for some years past rejected from your Quick Stock the Loan to the Berar Government of 10 (Ten) Lacks of Sicca Rupees<sup>13</sup> not that we considered it as a desperate Debt, but as one which did not afford a prospect of immediate liquidation, or of which it might perhaps be impolitic to make an immediate demand or to press the instant payment.

323. We direct however that with your earliest convenience you make enquiry into the State of this Loan and advise us thereof together with your opinion if the same be recoverable how far it may be politic to make a demand of its instant or distant payment, and if any Interest has accrued thereon, in order that with such a state of information before us, we may be enabled to give you our final directions upon the subject.

\* \* \* \*

## Revenue Department

340\* We have perused the Proceedings referred to in the 11th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter dated 23rd March 1786, relative to the Household Troops of the Rajah of Burdwan.<sup>14</sup>—We are decidedly of opinion that whatever Troops are kept up within the Company's Provinces, as a defence and not merely for the purpose of the Collections should be disciplined & commanded by an European Officer.—In this point of view only the Nugdean Troops of the Burdwan Rajah can be considered.—Besides on referring to your proceedings of 1780 it appears that notwithstanding the Rajah was allowed the annual Sum of Rups. 1,03,000 (one Lack three thousand) for the sole purpose of his keeping up a regular Body of disciplined Troops for the protection of his Country, no such Troops were kept up, and it was therefore very properly resolved to take this matter into your own hands.—And notwithstanding it was afterwards agreed in 1784 to restore to the Rajah the former allowance for the purpose of his maintaining these Nugdean Troops yet in 1786, it appears from the depredations committed in various parts of the Country by the desperate Gangs of Decoits which invested it that these Troops had by no means answered the purpose for which they were raised. Under all these circumstances exclusive of the general policy of the measure, we approve of your resolution to put them again under the command of an European Officer.

341. We observe that Mr. Stables dissented to this Resolution, being of opinion that if Troops were necessary for the defence of the Burdwan Province they should be supplied from the Brigade. For our own parts we think that if the purpose can be as effectually answered by a Draught from the regular Establishment of the Army without materially affecting the strength of the whole, this additional expence of Rups. 1,03,000 (one Lack three thousand) ought to be saved to the Company, and therefore direct, that you take this

\*For paras 324-39 re. Military Deptt. deleted here please see Vol. XIX of Fort William  
—India House Correspondence.

matter into your immediate consideration and adopt Mr. Stables's proposal if practicable.

### Commercial Department

342. In the preceding part of this Letter we have animadverted upon the conduct of our late Board of Trade respecting the provision of that important article of our Investment of Raw Silk, we now resume the subject by acquainting you that having filed a Bill in Chancery against Messrs Aldersey & Dacres it appears by their answers upon Oath that they and other Members of the Board of Trade during their administrations availed themselves of very unwarrantable gains in receiving Money from the Silk Contractors which accounts for the very extravagant prices at which the Silk was charged.

343. Messrs William Barton  
Nathaniel Bateman  
Jacob Rider  
John Summer, and  
William Rooke

having been active Members of the Board of Trade during the above period and involved in the very injurious and fraudulent practices accordingly to stand dismissed immediately after the receipt of these and to sue them on their Covenants to recover the damages the Company have sustained by their breaches of trust and they are accordingly to stand dismissed immediately after the receipt of these Advices and for the purpose of their being sued we shall send you their Deeds of Covenants.

344. Mr. James Inglish Keighly's Conduct is so circumstanced respecting his Silk Contracts and the very bad quality of the Silk he supplied compared to that of others that we see it improper to continue him longer in the Service and have therefore dismissed him and ordered his Covenants to be put in suit (which are also now sent for that purpose) such dismissal to take place from the receipt of those Advices.

345. As to Mr. Nicholas Grueber we have reason to entertain suspicions of his conduct as a Member of the Board of Trade, but as the Evidence upon which we have proceeded respecting the persons abovementioned whom we have ordered to be dismissed is not decisive as concerning him we must for the present rest his conduct on the Investigation of our Governor General & Council, we therefore direct that you cause strict enquiry to be made respecting Mr. Grueber's conduct, and if it should be found that he participated in the unwarrantable practices of other Members of the Board we direct that he be dismissed and sued upon his Covenants in like manner as we have directed respecting Messrs Barton & others for which purpose we now send an attested Copy thereof and will forward the original when necessary.

346. The preceding Orders affect only such of our Servants as were Members of the Board of Trade down to the month of January 1784 but as we have every reason to believe that the subsequent

Members thereof and also those of our other Servants who engaged with the Board of Trade in the contracts for Silk, have been equally guilty of a breach of their duty and Covenants, We strictly enjoin our Governor General & Council that they cause very minute inquiry to be set on foot for the purpose of ascertaining in what manner and upon what principles the Contracts for Silk in general but particularly with Messrs John Taylor, Peter Speke, Charles S. Collinson, Thomas Henschman, Charles Grant, Charles Crommelin, and Edward Ephraim Pote or any other of the Company's Servants now in India who may have engaged with the Company for that article were entered into and executed, and if it shall be found that they made any present or payments to the Board of Trade in respect of such Contracts or that any other collusive practices have prevailed therein with all or any of the said Contractors or others that such of them as shall be found guilty be dismissed the Company's Service & sued in like manner as has been directed respecting the Members of the Board of Trade above set forth, to which end their Deeds of Covenant shall be sent out when necessary and in the mean time copies are now forwarded upon which to commence the proceedings.

347. The Answers of Messrs Aldersey & Dacres relate only to Raw Silk, but from information and various circumstances being convinced that the like practices have prevailed respecting the Piece Goods and other parts of the Investment furnished by Contract with the Board of Trade, We also direct that our Governor General & Council do cause the like investigation to be made thereof as is here before ordered respecting Silk, and if any of the Company's servants either Members of the late Board of Trade or Contractors shall be found to have been guilty of similar practices or any other collusion or violation of trust respecting other parts of the Investment, that such servants be dismissed the Company's Service and sued on their Covenants in the same manner as is directed respecting the Silk Contractors abovementioned, for which purposes we now send attested Copies of their Covenants and will forward the originals when necessary.

348. The reasons more at large which have governed our conduct in the dismissals and Inquiries we have above directed, appear in our Proceeding which goes a number in the Packet.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

Jno. Michie/John Motteux/Jno.  
Woodhouse/John Hunter/Jn :  
Townson/George Cuming/Hugh  
Inglis/Thos. Parry/George Tatem/  
John Travers/Abram Robarts/W.  
Elphinstone/Paul Le Mesurier/  
Thos. Cheap\*/Jacob Bosanquet/  
Chas. Mills/John Roberts.

London  
the 27th March 1787.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letters to  
Bengal No. 1 Per Minerva.

No. 4 Accompanying the Public Letter from the Court of Directors  
Dated 31st July 1787.

Reced Per Ranger

Examined—W. Woods

†Signature missing in No. 4.

**Enclosure No. I.**

[Vide Para 115]

**FORM of the ACCOUNT required to be transmitted to England of all STATIONARY which it may be indispensably necessary to purchase for the Company's Use in Bengal.**

An Account of Stationary purchased for the use of Fort William Presidency and its Subordinates between the 30th of April and 1st. May

		Average Price At C. Rs.	Amount Currt. Rs.
Imperial . . . . .	Reams	.....	.....
Demy . . . . .	do.	.....	.....
Foolscap . . . . .	do.	.....	.....
Blotting . . . . .	do.	.....	.....
Quills . . . . .	Thousand	.....	.....
Pounce . . . . .	lb	.....	.....
Pencils . . . . .	Dozen.	.....	.....
Ink Powder . . . . .	Dozn. of Papers.....	.....	.....

Form of the Account for Stationery to be sent to England.—

**No. 25.**

Accompanying the Public Letter from the Court of Directors.

Dated 31st July 1787.

*Enclosure No. II*

[Vide para 127]

*Report of the Auditor of Indian Accounts*

(Duplicate)

To the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and to the Hon'ble Supreme Council at Fort William in Bengal.

My Lord & Gentlemen,

Para. 1. As so long a period has elapsed since any remarks have been transmitted to your Presidency from this Department on the Books & Accounts received from thence, I obey the Courts directions in now furnishing the same, in doing which I have found it necessary to take a retrospect of some years; & though I am aware that many objectionable points here adverted to have since been amended through the assiduity & attention of your able Accountant

General, yet it may not be improper to point such out in order to evince in a stronger light the necessity of a proper attention being paid to guard against similar inaccuracies in future.

2. Your General Books have of late Years been formed on so full & explicit a Scale as to afford complete satisfaction the method also of keeping the Revenue Books and of introducing them on the General Books since [178...] on the Plan proposed by your two Accountants the 29th January 1782 is a great improvement and does those Officers infinite Credit.—

3. In the General Letter of the 8th July 1785 it was remarked that you had not sent home your General & Revenue Books to a later period than 1781/2 since which those of 1782/3 have been received, and the Revenue Books & Military Paymasters Books of 1783/4, and as these must go a great way in facilitating the close of the General Books of that Year it seems the more surprizing that the last were not sent at the same time.

4. The Books of the Salt Department have not hitherto been sent home, and though the Statements entered on the Revenue Proceedings from time to time afford a general information as to the advances & receipts, yet it will be much more satisfactory to have the whole detail of those Transactions, and as it appears by the Letter from the two Accountants of the 29th January 1782 that the Comptroller of the Manufacture of Salt kept the Accounts thereof in a Journal & Ledger, I obey the Courts Orders in requiring that these be forwarded by the earliest Opportunity.

5. I must here observe that neither the profit on this Article nor that on the Opium have ever been regularly brought on the General or Revenue Books prior to 1781/2 owing probably to their having been sometimes under the management of the Revenue, & at other times under that of the Commercial Department, it will be very useful therefore to take up the Salt Account from the first Plan of the Contracts in 1772.

6. The Salt Petre provided in Purnea has never been properly brought to Account, the Advances for the Provision are made from the Revenues, but the amount sent down to Calcutta has in most Years been dispatched without [...] Invoices, so that it is impossible to ascertain whether the Superintendant has liquidated the Advances made or whether a Balance may not have accumulated in his hands.

7. On the Revenue Books therefore the head of Superintendant of Salt Petre in Purnea might be raised which may be debited to the Treasury from whence he receives the advances, & credited by the Salt Petre sent down at the price he pays for it together with the charges of Transportation & ca & his own Establishment.

8. The head of Salt Petre will of course be credited by General Books as delivered to the Board of Trade with the charges incurred thereon.

9. The Opium Books received appear to be sufficiently clear & explicit, but it were to be wished they had been [continued] to a later date as the Accounts of Profit on this Article as well as on the

Salt are repeatedly called for, and it is always desireable to state such to the latest period.

10. The directions contained in the Courts Letter beforementioned respecting your Treasury Accounts appear to have been properly attended to, they being received to the Month in which the last Ship was dispatched.

11. In the same Letter it was remarked that your Military Store-keepers Books had not been furnished since those of 1778/9 & as none of these have been since received, I am directed to remind you of the Omission, & to require that they be transmitted as well for the Period before, as since, the appointment of the Agent.

12. The Books of the Board of Ordnance are also in arrears none being received since those of 1782/3 which deficiency should therefore be supplied.

13. The Account of the Establishments of the Civil Department on the 31st December 1785 received P. Winterton is drawn out in a method perfectly satisfactory.—The Court in their Letter of [...] have expressed their disappointment at not receiving the complete List of the Establishments to the same Period.—In examining that made up to the 1st February 1785 received P. Swallow it appears some Offices under the Commercial Department were there omitted namely the Superintendants of Investment And the Agent for dispatching the Ships, the Expences of which Offices were considerable—And great care should be taken to avoid any Omission of the kind in future Lists.

14. By the Ship Winterton an abstract of your Quick Stock on the 31st January 1786 was received, but the particulars did not accompany it without which it is not possible to distinguish with sufficient accuracy the nature of the debts owing by the Company, & it is hoped that any neglect of this kind will in future be carefully avoided.

15. There is a Subject which has been productive of much inconvenience in forming the Accounts of your Presidency, I mean that of the apparent difference in the same Articles at the same Periods by different Accounts—for example—The amount of your Bond debt at 8, P. Cent inserted on the General Letters since the 31st January 1785 has been stated at 157 Lacs, while on the separate Account of demands on the Treasuries on Bond debts at different Periods made up by your Accountant General as well as by the Quick Stocks, the same has been invariably stated at 161 Lacs—this difference is probably owing to the Bonds given up by the late Governor General amounting to CRs. 4,06,000 having been twice deducted through mistake from the Total of the Bonded Debt as inserted on the General Letter of 17th January 1785.

16. By the Monthly Towjee Accounts of Receipts & ca of Revenue 1782/3 entered on your Proceedings the collections of that Year amount to 245 Lacs of Sicca Rupees—by the Revenue Books of the same Year they are stated at Sicca Rupees 2,57,73,000.

17. The remittances from the Board of Customs 1779, 80 to the Khalsa are by the State of the revenues & Khalsa Books CRs. 939056 by the accounts of the Board of Customs of that year they are stated at CRs. 11,89,580 and by the Monthly accounts CRs 8,31,140.

18. In the Military Paymasters Books 1782/3 Colonel Blair is charged with the Sum of Rs. 100,000 received from the Resident at Benares at 11 P. Cent Batta, in the General Books Credit is given to the Resident for this Sum with a Batta of Rs. 8.3.14.2.2 P. Cent only in the same Books Colonel Blair is also charged with the receipt of Rs. 1,20,000 from the late Governor General at 11 P. Cent, which the Governor General brought to account in the Books of 1781/2 at 12 P. Cent, & so of several other Sums, the difference appears to be wrote off to Profit & Loss in the General Books of 1782/3.

19. The Military Arrears the 31st July 1785 are stated by the Quick Stock of that date at CRs. 50,60,644.—but by the Military Paymasters Letter entered on the Consultation of the 10th of October at CRs. 49,02,700.—

20. The above instances will be sufficient to show the necessity of remedying these inaccuracies in future.

21. In the General Letter of the 21st Novr. 1777 a claim on Capt. Delafield was referred to the Court being the difference between the demand on him for Batta overdrawn and the amount he had deposited on that account in March 1777.

22. It appears by your Proceedings of the 31st March 1777, that Capt. Delafield was allowed to take his passage for Europe on his finding security for CRs. 20,000 to answer any demands against him, which he did, but afterwards finding the Board had ordered a prosecution to be commenced against him, he desired to withdraw the former Security and to deposit CRs. 28,000 in the Treasury, which, he states, he understood to be 11,000 Rupees more than the charge against him for the Batta overdrawn—not having however ready Money by him he requested the Board would take Mr. Motte's Promissory Notes payable in a Month.

23. This was agreed to & the Military Paymaster General directed to take the Note, and receive it when due crediting Capt. Delafield for it as a Sum deposited by him to satisfy the Companys demands against him.

24. By the account sent in by the Military Paymaster on the 9th April this was CRs. 11435 short of the demand against Capt. Delafield, which difference was ordered to be demanded of his Attornies, & on their refusing payment, the matter as before stated was referred to the Court.

25. On searching the Military Paymasters Books of 1776/7 it is found that he omitted to give credit at the time for the Sum of 28000 CRs. deposited as above stated, tho' it is afterwards charged to his account in June 1780 by his Successor but the difference between this and the sum demanded does not stand on balance against Capt. Delafield as with propriety it should have done.

26. In the Military Paymasters Books 1780/81 there appears a Sum of CRs. 11224 charged to Capt. Delafields account for Money he drew from the Burdwan Council, and which had also been paid him at Calcutta, and if this is a different account from the first mentioned the whole Balance against him should be CRs. 22659.—

27. On the Military Paymasters Books 1782/3 Colonel Blair is debited to General Books for different sorts of Rupees said to be received from the Governor General amounting in the whole to CRs. 156292-12-0.—but this does not appear to the credit of the Governor General either on the General Books of 1781/2 or 1782/3 though a further Sum of Benares Sicca Rups. 1,20,000 advanced by him to Col: Blair, & which is also entered on the same page of the Paymasters Books is properly brought to account.

28. On the several Quick Stocks up to that of 31st December 1783 the Loan to Major Tolley is inserted without Interest, but which it is supposed should not have been omitted from the time such Loan was granted.

29. On the last mentioned Quick Stock also is first inserted the Arrears of Tribute due from Benares tho' it is certain some Kists were in Arrear before that time—On the Cr. side the amount due to the Committee of Grain is stated at CRs. 10,57,741-13-11 but on what account is not explained—the Entry being in a single Line.

30. In the above Quick Stock the amount of Military Stores under the Board of Ordnance is 36 Lacs which in the one preceding were inserted at 54 Lacs—on a reference to the Dead Stock the difference appears to arise from writing off to this last—the Ordnance, Arms, Accoutrements, Camp Equipage & all the Military & Ordnance Stores in use with the several Corps composing the Army which if properly done here, renders the former Statements of Quick Stock erroneous to a considerable amount.

31. But the propriety of this may in some measure be questioned, for as the Dead Stocks are supposed to contain only those Articles for which no return is expected, it remains for consideration whether all the Stores so wrote off come under that description or whether it is not highly probable that a part may be returned into the Arsenal or Magazines, in the latter of which cases they may be deemed effective property, & the writing them thus off to the Dead Stock becomes improper.

32. The amount due the late Buxey CRs. 1151-7-1 was omitted on the Quick Stock of 31st July, 1784 tho' inserted in subsequent Quick Stocks.

33. The Balance due from the Paymaster to the Light Infantry is inserted on the Quick Stocks from 31st March 1781 to the 31st August 1783 as it stood on the 31st October 1780 it is however material to have the different Articles composing the Quick Stocks made up to the same period & such inaccuracies as this are therefore most carefully to be avoided, nor can any sufficient cause be alledged for the one now pointed out for the account of his Balance might

certainly have been procured to a Period nearer to that of making up the several Quick Stocks here noticed.

34. On this point also I have to remark that the Balances due to the Paymasters to the Bombay & Madras Detachments on the Quick Stock 28th February 1783 are stated as on 30th April 1782 and the latter the same on the Quick Stock 31st August 1783 on which the Paymaster to Bombay Detachment is inserted as on 31st August 1782.

35. The purchase of Elephants (entered though improperly under Military Cash by the Quick Stock of 30th April 1783 amounted to CRs. 344,920, but by the Military Paymasters Books 1782/3—the cost of those purchased to that time amounting only to CRs. 269300, one of these Statements is therefore erroneous.

36. In the Quick Stock of the 31st October 1784 the entry of Stores from Chunar being the amount to be received for Stores sold is inserted properly in the Abstract among the Debts, but in the subsequent Quick Stocks it is included among Stores.

37. The amount due for the Sale of Stores under the head of Storekeeper of the Garrison Provisions is not brought on the Quick Stock before 30th April 1785, Whereas the Stores for the provision of the Garrison which stood on the Quick Stock of the 31st October 1784 at CRs. 563815 were reduced to CRs. 81578 on that of 31st January following & as this must it is supposed have proceeded from the Sale made in the Interim, the amount due for such Sale should have had a place on the latter Quick Stock.

38. The Remittances outstanding in the Revenue Department 1780/81 appear to be properly brought on the Revenue Books of that Year and should likewise have had a place on the Quick Stock of 30th April 1781, but are there omitted—on that of 31st December following the Sum of Rupees 589,900—is however inserted in this Account.

39. On the Quick Stock of the 31st August 1782—no entry on this account appears though on reference to the Revenue Books Sa. Rs. 134000 were at that time outstanding—and on the Quick Stock immediately following a large Sum is inserted—in the Statement of August 1783—this head is again omitted but included in that of December following—and containing some part belonging to 1781-2—in the Quick Stock of July 1784 and subsequent ones, this head also stands inserted, & includes remittances, belonging to 1780/81 which is a clear proof that the Omissions above noticed were erroneous.

40. The Balance of Cash in the hands of the Superintendant of Opium is first introduced on the Quick Stock of 31st December 1783—on that of 31st July 1784 there appears no Balance against this head, in that of 31st Oct. 1784 his balance of Cash is inserted together with the Amount due for Opium sold and also advances to the Contractors outstanding, which leaves room to imagine that similar Entries should have appeared in the former Statements of Quick Stock.

41. The amount of Ophium remaining in Warehouse has never stood on the Quick Stocks prior to that dated January 31.—1785 though by the Ophium Books there appear to have been large Quantities on hand at different times which should certainly have been stated on the Quick Stock—and I have also to observe that this Article is omitted in the three Quick Stocks received subsequent to the above.

42. The Advances for the Manufacture of Salt are not inserted on the Quick Stock 31st August 1782 though probably then outstanding.

43. But an omission of greater magnitude has been made in some of your Quick Stocks—I mean that of the Arrears due by the Company in the several Departments not brought on those Statements before Decr. 1783 at which period they were stated at no less than CRs. 1,87,00,000—This has proved of so much the more consequence in that a correct Statement of all the Debts owing by the Company had been called for just before the Account was received, which included those Arrears, & of course the one given in was a fallacious one.

44. Nor was this the only inconvenience attending the Omission just at that Crisis it had been asserted on the one hand that the Debts of the Company had not been stated at their full amount, & this the receipt of the next Quick Stock seemed fully to justify.

45. While on the other hand those who had contended for the contrary found themselves thereby in an involuntary Error which proved a matter of no small mortification, & however little such accusations were merited, & to which your Accountant General in his Letter recorded on the proceedings of the Secret Department of Inspection of 30th Novr. 1785 has alluded yet it must be confessed this gave colour in some measure to the charge of wilful mis-statements which had been alledged on the occasion—the difference between two Accounts of the same kind made out to a Period only within 4 Months of each other viz 31st August & 31st December 1783 amounting to the enormous Sum of 187 Lacs before mentioned scarcely justifying the plea of Error.

46. This defect has however been completely remedied in the Quick Stocks since received, & it is hoped nothing of the kind will be experienced in future.

47. I proceed to state such remarks as apply particularly to the Commercial Department.

48. On the Commercial General Journal April 1781—Bauleah Factory is credited for an Invoice of Raw Silk said to be received amounting to CRs. 370000 nearly—but in the Bauleah Books this is not charged till July following.

49. On the Export Warehouse Books 1782/3 Bombay Presidency is Dr. to charges Merchandize in May 1782 CRs. 11640 for the amount including Freight of the Ship Blake but this charge of Freight does not appear in the Entries of debit to charges Merchandize unless it

be included in Sloop hire which that Month amounted to upwards of Rs. 16000—but if so inserted it should have stood a separate Article, and if not the head of charges Merchandize is fallaciously credited for the Sum.

50. The same remark occurs in Novr. 1782 where the Ship Nancy is in like manner charged in the Sum of CRs. 17845.—

51. It would be satisfactory to have the Invoices of Madeira Wine entered more particularly in the Import Warehouse Keepers Books than hitherto practised so that the rate of Exchange & ca may appear.

52. The Buxey's Books of this Department have not hitherto been received as before remarked in the Court's Letter of 8th July 1785, these will of course be supplied from the first Institution of the Board and the Entries should be particular as to every article of Expenditure according to the mode pursued by the Buxey or Civil Paymaster to the General Department.

53. The Books of Cossimbuzar Factory have been frequently sent home without Indexes and in some Years the Pages of the Journal are not referred to in the Ledger which makes it troublesome to turn to any Article.

54. The Charges on the out Factory Books where no subsidiary Books accompany them should be particularized, the first Month at least in each Year, & again when any alteration takes place in the fixed Establishments; the contingencies & Extra charges should be always at length; and here I must remark that the Subsidiary Books from the Subordinates, tho' often wrote for have not been completely transmitted those of Patna excepted, it is necessary therefore either that these be sent home or that the particulars of the charges be fully entered on the Subordinates General Books.

55. On the several Quick Stocks since 1781 under Export Warehouse, the outstanding debts at the Aurungs stand with little or no variation—and if the Amount is doubtful of liquidation which by the account of Debts in this Department on the 30th April 1785 recorded on the Public Proceedings of 13th February 1786 appears to be the case, it should have been wrote off to the Dead Stock.

56. The Head of Stores at Cossimbuzar stood invariably on the Quick Stocks from Novr. 1779 at CRs. 11335-0-3 till that of 31st August 1783 when it was decreased to CRs. 144-15-3—On examining the Proceedings of the Board of Trade March 1783 it appears the Resident was called upon for explanation of the particulars of the first Sum inserted on the Quick Stock which he gave as follows.—

“In the Year 1778 there appears a Balance brought forward on the Books of this Factory under the head of Account Stores amounting to ..... 11,478-1-0.

Of which the accompanying Paper No. 1 contains the only particulars to be found amongst the Papers in the Office—but no where can I find prices annexed to each Article.

In September 1778 there arrived 2 Cases of Filature Tools, & three Scales & Beams from the Presidency which are charged at 277-5-3.

And in April 1779 a Set of Europe Scales & Weights compleat were sent amounting to ..... 348-0-0.  
12103—6—3

In 1779 all the Stores except the Filature Tools & Scales which are still in use at the Factory were sold at Public Outcry and the Sale as P. particulars

No. 2 Produced	768	6	0
which reduced the Amount to	11,335	0	3

At which rate it has been to this time on the Books instead of being wrote off to Profit & Loss which I presume would be proper and request directions".

57. This being referred to the Accountant to report on the proper Mode of adjustment, the Resident was in consequence directed to write off the Stores, if all had been worn out and expended, to profit & Loss, & if any were still in store, the difference only to be so wrote off which he afterwards did, leaving only the Filature Tools, Scales & ca at the reduced value of CRs. 144-15-3.

58. These Filature Scales & ca were stated by the Resident to have been invoiced in 1778 & 1779 at 625-5-3 besides which the Sum of 11,478.—included 3 pair [sic] of Beams & Weights which do not appear to have been disposed of in the Sale of 1779 all which are now stated at CRs. 144-15-3 only.

59. But notwithstanding the residents assertion that no particulars are to be found, On tracing this matter further back it appears however the first amount of Stores was brought on the Cossimbuzar Books of 1775 and consisted of the following vizt.

Two Invoices 28 Octr. & 27th December 1768 for the Filatures being (by the Presidency Books) Iron Bars, Steel, Tar, Cordage Ironmongers Ware Timbers & ca amounting (with charges Merchandize 370 CRs. to ..... C Rs. to 5,059-13-6.

Carriage for transporting Stone Blocks sent from Malda in 1769/70 as by Presidency Books ..... 1,332-0-0.

Filature Stores delivered-Messrs Wiss, & Robinson 31st January 1771 consisting of Tools & ca ..... 3,815-0-3.

Two Invoices of Stores 31st May & 16 July 1773 being 3 large Scale Beams & Filature Tools with charges Merchandize Rs. 25.....

	9,271	3	3
	C. Rs.	19,478	1 0

From which Sum Rs. 8000 are wrote off for the estimated valuation of such Stores as had been expended since 1768.

60. The Sale of 1779 consisted of some of those Articles only contained in the first Invoices, & it may be supposed the 8000 Rs. above-mentioned were allowed for the other Stores in the Invoice including 3000 for the Wear & ca of the Filature Tools & ca.

61. There would then remain of those of 1771 & 1773 about.....

	10,000
and those received in 1778 & 1769 . . . . .	625
	<hr/> 10,625 0 0 <hr/>

whereas the whole value now brought to account is only CRs. 144-15-3.

62. The result of both these Statements is that the Company do not appear to be fairly credited for the Stores remaining at Cossimbuzar-as in the first instance those invoiced in 1778 & 79 at CRs. 625 are reduced in value in 1783 to CRs. 144-15-3 in the second those Invoiced in 1771, 1773, 1778 & 9 at Rs. 10625—(allowing Rs. 3000 for Wear of the two first Years) are reduced in 1783 to the same Sum of CRs. 144-15-3 and that the Sum of 11190 has been therefore wrote off from the Cossimbuzar stores to Profit & Loss without a sufficient examination into the propriety thereof.

63. I have the Court's directions therefore to require that this matter be more fully investigated in order to ascertain if the adjustment has been properly made, & if the Company have not suffered by an unnecessary waste of those Stores.

64. The Memorandum of Floating Stock has been omitted to be added to the Quick Stocks of 30th April 1785 and 31st July.

65. Having thus gone through such remarks as seemed more immediately requisite I have only to request proper attention may be paid thereto of which there is the greater expectation from known abilities & assiduity of your Accountant General—I shall therefore conclude by stating the following general rules which it is hoped will be abided by.

1. That all Books & Accounts be transmitted to the latest date possible.
2. That every head of charges be particularly stated, & every other Entry as explicitly so as the nature thereof will admit.
3. That the greatest care be taken in forming the Quick Stock Accounts that no Articles of a dubious nature be inserted nor any other that relates to the Debts, Credits, or Effects of the Company be omitted.
4. That every other Account be drawn up in such a manner as to afford the clearest information on any of its component parts.
5. That proper Examinations, & additions be made of the Books & Accounts before they are sent home, the Quick Stocks especially,

as being Statements, on which great dependance must necessarily be placed.

East India House  
10th February 1787.

I have the honor to be with the  
greatest respect My Lord &  
Gentlemen

Your most obedient &  
most humble Servant

Wm. Wright

Auditor of Indian Accounts

(Duplicate)

P. S. The following is a List of Books wanting from your Presidency to this Period.

*General Department*

General Books 1783.4

Buxey's Disbursements 1st Jany. 1780 to 30th  
April 1781

Military Storekeepers or Agents Books from 1779

Board of Ordnance Do. from 1783

} Ordered by the Court's letter  
of July 1785.

Storekeeper of the Works do. from

1773-4 and to the abolition of the Office

Payment of the Works from 1780

} Wrote for in Auditor's Letters  
5th July 1777 & 4th July 1780

*Revenue Department*

Salt Books Journals & Ledger Vide paras 4 & 5

Board of Customs Do. from their Institution

Particulars Accounts of Customs, Vizt.

Government—on the Plan laid down in 35. Para :  
Genl. Letter 12th April 1786

} From 1777.

Companies—on the Plan of those formerly sent  
home under the separate heads of Inland Im-  
ports and Foreign Imports

} From January 1780

Ophium Books 1783 to 1785

*Commercial Department*

General Subsidiary & Subordinate Books 1779-80

Do. Do. & Do.

Luckypore Books.

1783.4

1774.5

} Wrote for in Auditors  
Letters 5th July 1777 and  
4th July 1780.

Dacca

1773 & 4

Cossimbuzar

1765 & 7

Malda

1766 & 70

Buxey's Disbursements from 1774 ] Ordered by Courts letter July 1785

Subsidiary Books from all the Subordinates  
but Patna which last have been received  
to 1783

Wrote for in Auditors Letter  
5th July 1777, and 4th July  
1780.

The others to be supplied from 1774

Duplicate.

Wm. Wright.

A. I. A.

Accompanying the Public Letter from the Court of Directors Dated  
31st July 1787.

No. 6

(Duplicate)

Auditor's Letter to Bengal

Dated the 10th February 1787.

12

## LETTER DATED 8 JUNE 1787

*Sums set apart for diminution of capital of Indian debts to be  
applied to investment and other government expenses.*

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para 1. We have received your several Dispatches by the Swallow the Manship, and the William Pitt, and are Busied in preparing answers to the various important Articles contained in them, but we think it necessary without waiting the Departure of our Sea Conveyance, to take the chance of this address reaching you at an earlier period than any other.—We are induced to do it, from the perusal of the Letter from Lord Cornwallis of the 16th November 1786 together with its enclosures.—From these it appears that in the view his Lordship has taken of the State of our Finances in India, he thinks it impossible for him without our Orders for that purpose, to employ more than fifty Lacks upon an Investment from Bengal making allowance for a proper Supply to the other Presidencies.—As it must be of great moment to every object of our Government in India to know our Sentiments even in general, upon the great question of transterring our Debts from India to Great Britain, we inform you of our decision being formed to transfer those to the extent of six crore of Rupees; and the present Packet to sail in the course of the Month of June will bring you our Orders upon the Subject in detail; In the mean time you may act with confidence on the Supposition that the large Sum Lord Cornwallis calculated to be set apart for the payment of the Interest and the diminution of the Capital of the Debts in India, need not be reserved for those purposes, but applied to the Investment, and the other purposes of our Government in India.

2. You will understand that this Order is not meant in any respect, to prevent the regular Payment of Interest due upon the Indian Debts, till the moment that the Creditors shall have actually agreed to the transfer of their Debts to this Country.—

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

London

[Endorsement]

the 8th June 1787.

Public Dept.

John Motteux/John Manship/ J.  
Smith/Thos. Cheap/Paul Le  
Mesurier/F. Baring/John Roberts.  
George Cuming/T. Pattle Junr./  
Jas. Moffatt/Jn. Townson/W.  
Bensley/Hugh Inglis.

Company's General Letter to Bengal No. 5

Received at Fort St. George Pr. Barwell Indn. Received from Do. at Fort William 21st May per Hastings Schooner.

No. 3 Accompanying the Public Letter from the Court of Directors Dated 31st July 1787 Per Ranger.

13

## LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1787

*Composition of the Secret Committee of Court—instructions regarding fitting out packets—salaries of Supreme Court judges—answers to various letters relating to routine administrative matters from 21st Aug. to 22nd Dec., 1786—proposal to establish a Botanical garden in Calcutta approved : experiments to grow cinnamon and sago trees in Bengal—John Shore deputed to Murshidabad—instructions regarding maintenance of troops in Oudh—policy of non-intervention in the affairs of the Indian States to be followed—allowances of John Bristow former Resident at Oudh, and his assistants—dispatches of different subjects not to be mixed up—measures to check unlicensed immigration to India—intercourse between England and India through Egypt via Suez.*

Public Department

OUR Governor General and Council at Port William in Bengal

Para. 1. Our last Letters to you were dated the 27th March last and transmitted by the Ship Minerva, Duplicates whereof were forwarded by the Ranger Packet.

2. Since the date of the above Letters, the Swallow Packet, likewise the Ships Manship, Phoenix, and William Pitt, have safely arrived; and brought us the several Advices mentioned in their respective Lists of Packets from Bengal.

3. We have appointed John Motteux Esqr. Our Chairman, Nathaniel Smith Esqr. Our Deputy Chairman, together with George Cuming, William Devaynes, John Manship, John Roberts, Joseph Sparkes and John Smith Esqrs to be the Committee of Secresy for giving the necessary directions respecting the safety of the Company's Shipping, the Orders therefore of any three of the said Committee respecting the same must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

4. Having appointed John Motteux Esqr. Chairman, Nathaniel Smith Esqr. Deputy Chairman, and John Manship Esqr. during the present Direction to be a Secret Committee agreeably to and for the purposes stated in the Acts of the 24 and 26 of His present Majesty, We hereby direct that all Orders and Instructions which you shall receive from our said Secret Committee, be observed and obeyed with the same punctuality and exactness as tho' they had been signed by thirteen or more Members of the Court of Directors conformably to the said Acts.

5. The impropriety of fitting out Packets in India to bring advices to England, except upon very urgent occasions, has so frequently been pointed out on account of the heavy expense attending them, that it is supposed you will not in future adopt that measure but when the situation of Affairs renders it absolutely necessary, and when this happens to be the case particular attention must be paid in the appointment of the Commander and Officers, the former must be taken from among the Officers in the regular Service who have performed one Voyage at least to and from India or China as Chief or Second Mate, and are at least 25 Years of Age, and the Mates of the Packets must have performed one Voyage at least to and from India or China as third or fourth Mate in the Company's Service. These being the established Regulations for the admission of Commanders and Officers in the Company's Service must be strictly adhered to; and none others who do not come within the above description can be continued therein—It is supposed there can be no difficulty in procuring those who are thus qualified, for there are few Commanders who would not spare an Officer on the requisition of the Governor General and Council to be promoted to the Command of a Packet and there will be still less difficulty respecting the Officers—In the absence of all the Company's Ships from India persons properly qualified under the above description may be found among those who may have had leave to proceed to India with Free Mariner's Indentures, and who would be very ready to enter into the Packet Service.

6. We also further direct that whenever a Packet is fitted out in India she be put on the same Establishment as to the number of Officers and others and their different pay as those Packets which are fitted out in England. The Establishment of a Vessel for this

Service from 140 to 170 Tons burthen makes a Number in this Packet. Vessels of a greater or less burthen to be nearly in proportion for the Number of Foremast Men according to their different Tonnage but no increase must be made on any occasion in the number of Officers or their Pay.

7. In case there is no necessity for returning the Ranger Packet to England, she must be employed or disposed of at Bengal in such manner as may prove most advantageous to the Company, but if on the contrary it should be judged expedient to send her back with Dispatches, her Salt Provisions and other Victualling Stores must be completed to a Quantity equal to the Consumption of Six Months.

8. We enclose for your information some Regulations which we have thought fit to establish regarding the Shipping of Arrack and other Spirits on board the Company's Ships for Europe, and direct that you enjoin the Commanders & Officers to pay due obedience thereto.

9. By the Ranger you will receive in a Box apart 40 Copies of a Collection of Statutes, Charters and By Laws relating to the East India Company compiled by Francis Russell Esqr. Solicitor to the Right Hon'ble the Commissioners for the Affairs of India for the use of Our Servants at your Presidency.

10. We have attentively considered the correspondence which has passed between your Board and the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature respecting the payment of their Salaries, and have accepted the Bills down upon us in consequence of your Adjustment of this matter.

11. The terms on which the Bills are drawn appear to us nevertheless more favorable to the Judges than should have been allowed.

12. In your Letter from the Secret Department of Inspection dated the 28th of February 1786, you inform us, that the Judges refusing to submit to the general Rule you had adopted of discharging the demands upon your Treasury according to priority of Date, you were induced to offer them Bills upon us for the Amount of their Salaries, and Arrears of Salary (in Current Rupees) at the usual Exchange and at 12 Months sight, or for as many Pounds Sterling as might be due to them severally by Act of Parliament for Arrears of Salary and at 30 Days Sight.

13. The first of these offers being 18 P. Cent more in favor of the Judges than the last, with this difference excepted, that the time of payment is 11 Months later, it could scarcely be supposed that they would accept the latter, which was obviously disadvantageous to them for the reasons they assigned, and the former being on the contrary much more favorable to them than they could reasonably have expected.

14. If instead of agreeing to grant them Bills for the Monthly amount of their Salaries in Current Rupees payable at 2s. 1d. per

Rupee and at 365 Days Sight you had proposed to grant them Bills for as many Pounds Sterling as were due to them by Act of Parliament payable 18 Months after date with Interest at 5 P. Cent P. Annum we have no doubt they would very readily have accepted of so fair a proposal and the difference in favor of the Company between the Amount of Bills drawn upon us on these terms and the Amount of the Bills you have granted would have been near 10 P. Cent.

15. We are confirmed in our Opinion that such an offer would have been readily accepted, having observed, upon recurring [sic] to a Letter addressed to us by the Judges under date the 14th of September 1776, on the subject in question, that they were willing to accept Bills in payment of their Salaries, of the abovementioned tenor, bearing Interest of 4 P. Cent only.

16. We flatter ourselves that before your Receipt of our present Dispatch you will have renewed the usual mode of paying the Judges their Salaries. At all events, we prohibit your Drawing Bills upon us in Payment thereof unless they will accept Bills for the number of Pounds Sterling that may be due to them by Act of Parliament payable at 18 Months after date with Interest at 6 P. Cent P. Annum, and we do not authorize you to grant such Bills but in cases of actual necessity.

17. Being apprized in your General Address to us under date the 6th of February 1786, that Captain Mark Wood the Administrator to the Estate of the late Captain William Patton from a mistaken Idea of the 4 P. Cent Remittance Loan had transmitted to England in Triplicate a Bond No. 180 granted to him on the Loan, we lately called upon Mr. Robert Steell the holder of the Bill drawn upon us for the fifth or last proportion of the principal Sum therein specified, to deliver up to us the said Bond.

18. Mr. Steell has in consequence delivered up to us one part thereof. Also one part of another Bond for Current Rupees Twenty thousand (20,000) numbered 46, and dated the 2nd of March 1781, granted to Captain Mark Wood as Administrator to the Estate of the late Captain William Patton, on the same Loan; of which, no notice is taken in your above said Letter.

19. Mr. Steell having at the same time declared that the other two parts of these Bonds were never sent to him, it will be proper that further enquiry be made by you of the Administrator to the said Estate concerning them in order that you may be enabled to acquaint us to whom and by what conveyances they were transmitted here.

20. No advice having been transmitted by the Ship William Pitt of sundry Bills drawn upon us from your Presidency between the 8th of November and 28th of December last, on the terms signified in our Letter of the 15th September 1785, we have been necessarily obliged to defer accepting several of the said Bills, merely for want of the Advice; and complaints having in consequence been made by some of the holders, who are subjected to great inconvenience thereby, we direct, in order to obviate all such Complaints in future,

that whenever you forward a dispatch to us by any Ship or Packet, you will not fail to send advices of all the Bills drawn upon us at your Presidency subsequent to your former dispatch.

21. Having considered the reference to us in your Letter in the Foreign Department dated the 9th January 1786, on the subject of Mr. Purling's Claims, and having also had his representation before us, we approve and confirm the decision you made thereon, and do not deem him entitled to any further allowances than those offered him under your Resolution of the 22nd November 1785, and as Mr. Purling in an Address to us of the 10th May last expresses his ready acquiescence in this, our Resolution, but states, that he has not received any part of the Salary and allowances so adjusted him by your said Resolution of the 22nd November 1785, We direct that these Allowances be paid to Mr. Purling's Attornies, if it shall appear, on receipt of this Letter, that neither he, nor any Person on his behalf has received the same, taking care that Mr. Purling's Attornies give a discharge in full for all his Claims on the Company.

22. By the Ship Deptford we received a Memorial from Mr. Leonard Collings, praying that he may be allowed to retain his original Rank on the Bengal Civil Establishment next to Mr. Larkins, and having taken the same into consideration, We resolved not to comply therewith.

23. We have permitted Messrs Edward Strettell and John Royds to proceed to your Presidency to practise as Barristers in the Supreme Court of Judicature.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department,  
dated the 21st August 1786

24. (Para. 1 and 2) Need no reply.

25. (3 & 5) We see no objection to your having adopted the proposal of Captain Kydd, entered on your proceedings of the 11th July 1786, for sending the Severn to Europe without freight or any other Expence to the Company, upon condition of allowing him to convey Stores and Provisions on his own Account for St. Helena, and can only regret the unhappy fate of that Vessel as advised in a subsequent Dispatch.

26. (6 & 8) Need no reply.

27. (9 & 23) The State of the Company's Finances in India, and the mode to be adopted for their more effectual relief will soon become the object of serious consideration.

28.. (24 & 39) Will be replied to in the Military Department.

29. (40) After a perusal of the several Letters from the Master Attendant and of the Engineer's Report, we approve of your resolution to rebuild the Marine House and hope the expence will not exceed the Estimate.

30. (41 & 42) The Plan recommended by your Master Attendant for carrying the Company's Ships so high up the River as Diamond Point is under the consideration of our Committee of Shipping whose Opinion thereon will probably be communicated to you by one of the early Ships of the ensuing Season.

31. (43) We approve of the Orders sent to Bombay for building 6 Pilot Vessels for the service of the Bengal Rivers.—The expence indeed, estimated by the Gentlemen at Bombay at 2,50,000 Rupees Two Lack Fifty Thousand Rupees at least is very great considering the present State of the Company's finances but we nevertheless think that you were justified by the exigency of the Case.—After directions had been sent to Bombay, we very much approve your Conduct in declining the proposals of your Naval Storekeeper as mentioned in your Subsequent advices.

32. We must here notice a practice which has too long prevailed in India, of the Company's Marine Stores being disposed of to one or more Individuals, who afterwards furnish the Commanders of the freighted and Country Ships with them at an exorbitant profit. As these Stores are sent out for the use of those who really want them, they must not be disposed of to speculators but only to persons who may actually stand in need of them for their immediate use; or to answer the contingencies of an intended Voyage.

33. (44) We have read all the Papers upon the Subject mentioned in this Paragraph, and are of Opinion that Mr. Henry Edgar Jeffreys was highly deserving of the 1000 Rupees you gave him as a reward for his Services in saving different Articles to a considerable amount from the Wreck of the Brilliant.

34. (45) We likewise approve of the Compensation to Mr. Raby of the Pilot Service on account of his sufferings during his long imprisonment at Mauritius. But however we may commiserate the fate of such as have been so unfortunate as to fall into the hands of the Enemy during the late War; yet the present finances of the Company are not in a Situation to allow of our granting pecuniary Assistance to every one who may have been in that predicament.—This reward therefore to Mr. Raby must not be drawn into a precedent, In looking into this matter we were naturally struck with the representation of Mr. Price your Marine Paymaster respecting the state of the Pilot Service under your Presidency as contained in his Letter of the 8th April 1786, making a comparison between the Marine Service at Bombay and the Pilot Service at Bengal very unfavorable to the latter, We direct that you enquire into the matter, and make such regulations as may be necessary to remedy the defects complained of which, according to Mr. Price, may be effected at a very trifling Annual expence.

35. (46) We have perused the Address from Captain William Richardson referred to in this Paragraph, and have no particular Observations to make thereon.

36. (47) *Needs no reply.*

# Map of the Royal Botanic Garden Calcutta

SCALE 250 FEET TO ONE INCH

Each Square is 100 FEET SIDE

Area of the Garden 255 Acres  
Length Along the River 1000 FEET

- |   |                                      |    |                     |
|---|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | GURDWAR SINGH'S QUARTERS             | 10 | LIEN'S MANSION      |
| 2 | MURDERER'S OFFICE                    | 11 | JOHN MONUMENT       |
| 3 | QUARTERS of AGENT, COMPTON of Garden | 12 | GRIFFIN MONUMENT    |
| 4 | GARDEN SURVEYOR'S OFFICE & QUARTERS  | 13 | LARGE SHED          |
| 5 | FRANKLIN'S QUARTERS                  | 14 | KING'S MONUMENT     |
| 6 | WALLIS MONUMENT                      | 15 | ORTHANGER, CLARKSON |
| 7 | KING MONUMENT                        | 16 | DEPARTMENT          |
| 8 | MURDERER'S QUARTERS                  | 17 | GOULD LANE          |
| 9 | SMALL SHEDS                          | 18 | REINHOLD MONUMENT   |





37. (48) On Account of the heavy Expence attending it which is estimated at 45,000 Sicca Rupees we are sorry that you were obliged by the public necessity to consent to the Construction of a new Bridge over Tolley's Nullah; We hope however that the errors of the former construction will be corrected; and that the Work will be completed with as little charge to the Company as possible—Perhaps it might be adviseable to establish a certain moderate Toll until the expence shall be reimbursed; but as to this you will act as you think most expedient.

38. (49) We approve of your having disposed of the Stables appertaining to the House lately purchased from Mr. Johnson for public Offices to Lieutenant Colonel Macpherson for 6,500 Sicca Rupees. And as it is stated that from their Situation these Stables could not be turned to any useful purpose, we direct that they be not at any future period repurchased for the Company.

39. (50 & 53) We have received great pleasure from the perusal of Lieutenant Colonel Kydd's Letter referred to in these Paragraphs proposing the Establishment of a Botanical Garden and give our most hearty Approbation to the Institution, as the Charges thereof are Estimated at not more than 200 Rupees per month. The experiment respecting the Cinnamon Tree in particular must be made in different parts and Soils of those extensive provinces in order to ascertain with certainty whether this Spice can be produced in Bengal equal to that which grows on the Island of Ceylon.—We have likewise perused a former Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Kydd of the 13th [15th] April 1786, relative to the Sago Tree, and its efficacy and importance in cases of Famine and Pestilence. We hope you will give this Subject all the consideration it may appear to merit. You must keep us constantly advised of the progress that may be made in the Botanical Garden and continue to send us drawings of such of its productions as you may deem worthy of our attention. We are aware that by extending your experiments too far the expence may increase to an amount of which you may not at present have any Idea.—The establishment therefore must be confined in the manner pointed out by Colonel Kydd as mentioned in the last Paragraph but one of his Letter of the 1st June last.

But so sensible are we of the vast importance of the objects in view that it is by no means our intention to restrict you in point of expence in the pursuit of it—In the Cultivation of the Cinnamon Tree in particular we foresee a great Source of Wealth to the Company and of Population and Opulence to the Provinces under your Administration.—Most earnestly therefore do we recommend it to you to proceed in your endeavors to propagate this Spice in different places, and that you avail yourselves of the abilities and Zeal of Lieutenant Colonel Kydd herein, and who, by the attention he has shown to a matter which may one day prove of the greatest benefit to his Constituents and to his Country, stands most deservedly high in our esteem and favor.

40. (54 & 57) The Paragraphs relative to the new Settlement at Anang will be answered in another Dispatch.

41. (58) After an attentive perusal of all the Papers relative to the Claim of the Free Masons Lodge to the Sum of Current Rupees 2475-0-6—which was paid into the Company's Treasury on account of that Society by Messrs Brown and Mapletoft before the Capture of Calcutta in 1756 and for which a Certificate was granted bearing date the 17th October 1757, We hereby authorize you to discharge the said Certificate in double the Sum for which it was originally granted, as a Compensation for Interest and direct that the same be paid to the Grand Lodge of Free Masons in Bengal on Security being given to indemnify the Company from any future demand on account thereof.

42. (59, 60) Require no answer.

43. (61) Your Recommendation in favor of the Son of the late Unfortunate Captain Peirce of the Halsewell, we are prevented from taking into consideration by the late Act of Parliament.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department  
dated the 11th September 1786

44. (Para 1 & 5) Need no reply.

45. (6) This Paragraph is replied to in our Answer to your General Letter of the 21st August last.

46. (7) The Subject of this Paragraph is under the consideration of our Committee of Shipping.

47. (8) We approve of the reductions made in the Department of the Board of Trade, as advised in this Paragraph.

48. (9) Needs no reply.

49. (10) Our answer to your Letter in this Department of the 21st August, contains our full approbation of your proceedings relative to the Botanical Garden.

50. (11, 12) Need no reply.

51. Your General Letter in the Public Department of the 18th September, needs no reply.

Reply to the Letter in the Publick Department,  
of the 13th November 1786

52. (Par : 1 & 4) Need no reply.

53. (5 to 34) Are replied to under the head of *Commercial Department*.

54. (35 & 38) The Subject of these Paragraphs, is under the consideration of our Committee of Shipping.

55. (39) We already signified our Approbation of your conduct which is the Subject of this Paragraph.

56. (40) We approve of your having appointed Mr. Thomas Crotty Deputy Carpenter at 40 (Forty) Rupees P. Month, in

consequence of the recommendation in our Letter of the 28th April 1786.—We likewise approve of your having paid him 100 (One hundred) Sicca Rupees on account of his Expences.

57. (41 & 48) We very much approve of your endeavors to prevent the destructive consequences of exporting Specie to Madras in your Annual Remittances to that Presidency—But notwithstanding the little encouragement held out by their Board of Trade, whose Report thereon and Lord Cornwallis's Minute on the same Subject we have attentively perused and considered, We hope you will be unceasing in your endeavors to afford as much of your Supplies to that Presidency as possible thro' the medium of Commerce. To this end we approve of the Contract you have entered into with Mr. Tyler for the Exportation of Rice, and of your intention to send thither a quantity of Ophium and we hope that you will be successful in your endeavors to reduce the exchange between the two Presidencies to it's former Standard. By the enclosed Copy of our Letter to Madras you will observe that We have directed our Servants there to co-operate with you in those endeavors.

58. (49 & 51) Need no Reply.

59. (52) We have considered of the Memorial of Mr. Thomas Dashwood Referred to in this Paragraph praying for a Reward adequate to his Labors as Register of Natives subject to the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, an appointment made under the Authority of the 21st of the present King.

60. When we gave our Orders for abolishing the Salary annexed to the Office of Register of Natives, held by that Gentleman, it was under the firmest Conviction that the duties of the Office were not so laborious as to require any further Recompence than the Fees allowed by the Act of Parliament, and as the late Advocate General expressed his Opinion on the 27th December 1782, it was not intended by the Act to create a New Office of Register but that the duty should be Assigned to the Secretaries or Register of Adauluts.

61. We observe by Mr. Dashwood's Memorial that 1000 (One thousand) Rupees P. Month is still continued to the Register appointed by the Supreme Court notwithstanding the Recommendation contained in our Orders of the 11th April 1785; on referring to the Act itself it appears that a Copy only of the Register kept by the Governor General and Council is to be deposited in the Supreme Court, we therefore hereby direct that, you do forthwith cease to pay the beforementioned Allowance of 1000 (One thousand) Rupees P. Month to the Register appointed by that Court.—And if you shall be of Opinion that the Fee of 1 (One) Sicca Rupee established by the Act to be paid to the Officer keeping the Register for every entry is not adequate to the duties performed, we authorize you to make Mr. Dashwood such an Allowance for his past and future Services as they may merit, consistently however with that plan of economy which has been so strongly recommended in every other Department.

62. (53) Needs no reply.

63. (54) We see no objection to the dates you agreed to put upon the Bills to be drawn upon us in liquidation of the Bond Debt according to our Directions of the 15th of September 1786.

64. (55) Needs no reply.

65. (56) It is not in our power to comply with your request in behalf of Mr. Thomas Pigou, as contained in this Paragraph.

66. (57, 58) Need no Reply.

67. Your General Letter in the Public Department of the 29th November, needs no reply.

68. We have received two Letters from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 16th November, and 27th December 1786. It is unnecessary to enter into a particular reply thereto. His Lordship will however see, by the General Advices, the attention we have paid to his recommendation in behalf of the Persons mentioned in the Letter of the 16th November. But altho' we have not given a particular reply to His Lordship's Letter we have perused both His Lordships own Dispatches and those of his Council with great pleasure and satisfaction.—And as We are persuaded that His Lordship will continue in the same line of meritorious Conduct, so we hereby assure him of our warmest approbation and Support.

69. Out of respect to the Right Hon'ble Governor General we have agreed to allow his Private Secretary a Salary of Sa. Rupees 1,000 (One thousand) P. Month being the Sum drawn by the Private Secretary to the late Governor General Mr. Hastings.

70. In the 47th Paragraph of our Letter of the 12th April 1786, and 50th Paragraph of the Letter of 27th March last. We have expressed our willingness to attend to any recommendation from your Government in favor of such of our Servants who might be deemed to have suffered particularly by Our Orders for the Reduction of their Salaries or Emoluments; and it is with great pleasure that we now embrace the opportunity of paying that attention to the Recommendations of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in favor of the several Officers mentioned in His Lordship's Letter to us of the 16th November 1786.

71. In your Proceedings of the 28th September 1785—You state that it was then in contemplation to unite the two Offices of Secretary to the Public and Secret Departments under One management a measure which by the 27th Paragraph of Our Letter of the 27th March last we have approved we recommend this Subject again to Your consideration, but if you shall finally be of opinion that the Service requires the two Offices to be Kept Separate, We shall not object thereto—and in that case we consent to the addition of Sicca Rupees 1700 (One thousand seven hundred) P. Month which has been made to the Salary of each.

72. We have agreed that the Persian Translator's Salary shall be increased from Sicca Rupees 600 (Six hundred) to Sicca Rupees 1500 (One thousand five hundred) P. Month.

73. We have also resolved that the Accountant General's Salary shall be increased from Sicca Rupees 16,000 (Sixteen thousand) to Sicca Rupees 38,400 (Thirty eight thousand four hundred) P. Annum.

74. You will be informed from the Military Department of our Resolutions respecting the Adjutant General and Military Paymaster General's Allowances.

75. Though we have now without hesitation complied with the recommendations made to us in regard to the Increase of Allowances to the several Offices before mentioned, yet we must *strongly insist* on the propriety of your waiting in future, the event of our determination upon such recommendations before any addition is actually made to the Salaries or Emoluments of our Servants as limited by us.

76. We very much approve of Mr. Shore's Deputation to the Durbar of the Nobob Mobaruk Ul Doulah, as advised in Lord Cornwallis's Letter of the 27th December last We hope Mr. Shore has been successful in obtaining the objects of His Deputation and that in future the Affairs of the Nabob's Household will undergo such a reform as to be productive of his own Comfort and Happiness, and the Comfort and Happiness of his Family and Dependents.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department  
dated the 28th December 1786

77. (Paras 1 to 5) Need no Reply.

78. (6 & 8) We have already signified our Approbation of the Plans you had carried into Execution for effecting your Remittances to Fort St. George; we likewise approve of your subsequent Proceedings relative thereto—and of your Resolutions respecting the Walpole and Queen, as advised in these Paragraphs.

79. (9) Needs no Reply at present.

80. (10) We took the earliest opportunity of inquiring into the complaint contained in this Paragraph against Captain Gregorie of the Manship for receiving Deserters from the Fort and Concealing them on board his Ship, for which purpose we called upon Captain Gregorie and his Chief Mate and Purser who acknowledged that five Men were discovered in consequence of a search you had directed to be made on board, but positively denied any knowledge of their being Soldiers, and also assured Us that having more Men on the Ship's Books than were necessary the said Soldiers with other Persons were actually discharged, and were going over the side before the Officer came on board to search the Ship, and as Captain Gregorie and Captain Rattray of the Phoenix whom we examined on this occasion have asserted in the most solemn manner that they never Received the Order referred to in the above Paragraph directing them not to Ship an European till he had been examined by the Fort Major, and the Chief Mate and Purser have also declared that they were never acquainted with any such Orders having been

given, We came to a Resolution that as far as the materials before Us enabled Us to judge (not having yet Received your consultations for the Period when the above transaction happened) We did not see any cause to censure Captain Gregorie, but as we expect the several circumstances are stated at large on your Consultations We shall when we receive them resume the enquiry, and if it shall then appear that Captain Gregorie has acted improperly we shall not fail to inflict such punishment on him as we shall be of opinion his misconduct may deserve.

81. In order to guard against any of our Commanders pleading ignorance of the several general orders and Regulations which you issue to them, we direct that in future you cause the Commanders to give you an acknowledgement of the Receipt of such Orders and Regulations which acknowledgement you are to take special care to transmit to Us in the Packet of the ship to which it shall Relate.

82. The Remainder of this Letter needs no Reply at present, as we conceive that upon Mr. Ritchie's Arrival he will apply to us for our Decision on the Claim mentioned in the 15th Paragraph.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
of the 28th August 1786\*

83. (Para. 1) Needs no reply.

84. (2 & 4) We do not approve of the heads under which you mean to write to us in this Department, as we would have all your Correspondence entered under the heads pointed out by our Orders of the 21st September 1785; and each Head must be the subject of a Separate Letter. What you write in future under the head of *Reforms* must be in the Public Department.

85. (5, 6) Need no reply.

86. (7 & 17) After perusing all the materials, upon your Consultations on the subject of the Vizier's Subsidy which were not before us when our Letter of the 21st September 1785, was written; and also the several Documents which have been entered therein upon the same subject, since the receipt of our said Letter at Fort William; We approve of the manner in which you have agreed to carry into execution the Orders therein contained relative to the mode of settling Accounts with the Vizier for the Expences of the Futtu Ghur Detachment.

87. The Opinion contained\* in our beforementioned Letter respecting the Brigade stipulated for in the Treaty of 1781, being fully adequate to the Defence of the Vizier's Dominions, was founded on the Sentiments of your late Governor General Mr. Hastings.—In the 15th Paragraph of the Letter to which we are now replying that force is unequivocally declared to be *not* sufficient.—But as our present Governor General Lord Cornwallis was not a party in any of the late Debates upon this subject, we wish to know his Lordship's opinion herein.

\* See *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. XV, pp. 668-775.

88. We have perused the Minute of Sir John Macpherson of the 17th August last upon this subject.—If it be a fact that the only parts of the Vizier's Country that have any regular protection are those within the influence of the protection of our Troops, and if the Cawnpore Brigade be really insufficient for the Protection of the whole, it is necessary for us to pause a little before we repeat our Directions for withdrawing the Detachment stationed at Futtty Ghur.—One thing is clear—The defence of Oude must be provided for.—If therefore the Cawnpore Brigade be not equal to such defence, either the Vizier's own Troops must be reformed so as to make them serviceable or another Detachment of Company's Troops must be stationed in the Country, the additional expence of which he may be enabled to defray by reducing his own useless Troops.—And this we recommend to your most serious consideration always bearing in your mind that from the nature of our connection with the Nabob of Oude, we consider the prosperity of that Country as inseparable from the prosperity of our own Provinces; and that therefore we cannot wish to draw a larger Subsidy therefrom than the State of the Country will conveniently afford.—The vast drain of specie from that Country of late Years must have had a natural tendency to impoverish it.—But we hope the period is not far distant when the Calcutta Treasury will have no need of such extraneous aids.—On the contrary we hope that the greater part of the Oude Subsidy will be paid to the Troops in the Country, and thus by a natural and proper circulation find it's way again into the Vizier's Treasury.—If this cannot be effected it is a proof that there is a radical defect in the present System, and upon the whole of that subject we soon expect the final Opinion of our Governor General and Council.

89. We have noticed with great satisfaction the information contained in Sir John Macpherson's Letter to the Court of Directors of the 25th March 1786 relative to the spirit of Cultivation, Industry and Commerce, which is beginning to prevail in the Vizier's Dominions.—But as we are in expectation of receiving shortly the Report of Lord Cornwallis relative to the State and Condition of Oude, and of the means by which our connection with the Vizier may be rendered both beneficial and permanent, we shall forbear to enlarge further on the subject than to recommend it to his Lordship's most serious consideration.

90. We likewise refer to the decision of his Lordship the matter contained in the 16th Paragraph of the Letter to which we are replying, relative to the Allowances for Staff & Ca to the Futtty Ghur Detachment, should it's continuance be necessary, and this we do in the utmost Confidence that that decision will be just and equitable to the Detachment, as well as economical with respect to the Company.

91. (18) We approve of the Appointment of Mr. George Forster to be Maratta Interpreter under your Government, but his present Allowances must not be increased nor any addition made to the Establishment of his Office without our previous consent and approbation.

92. (19 & 41) Such of these Paragraphs as relate to the Affairs of the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore will be replied to in our Letter to Fort St. George, a Copy whereof is enclosed as usual.—The rest need no reply.

93. (42 & 43) Altho' no disagreeable circumstances may arise from the Assistance given to the Rajah of Bownagur, as mentioned in these Paragraphs under the provisions contained in the latter Paragraph, that it was not likely to commit the Company in the necessity of proceeding further; We trust you will ever keep in view the policy of not interfering in the Disputes between the Country Powers lest you involve the Company in hostilities.

94. (44 & 78) Need no reply; but we cannot omit to observe upon the whole particulars of the Narrative that it only tends to confirm us in our opinion that a simplicity in our dealings with the Native Princes is the wisest and safest policy for us to pursue.

95. (79) In a firm reliance on Mr. Mallet's prudence and sagacity we approve of the Stipend of 400 (four hundred) Rupees Pr. Mensem to Noorah Dein Hussien Khan whom he retained as his Vackeel.<sup>1</sup>

96. (80 & 104) Need no reply but it is impossible not to observe how improper it was to make the subject of these Paragraphs and many of the preceding ones the Subject of Correspondence except thro' the Secret Committee as through that Channel only have we thought it safe to correspond especially on subjects where the names of European Nations are so often introduced.

97. (105 & 119) (125 & 126) We have perused all the papers referred to in these Paragraphs, relative to the Bills drawn on the House of Butcherauze Doss and which were assigned over to Gopaul Doss in part discharge of a Bond given to him in 1783, by the Resident at Oude for the Repayment of an advance made by him on the Company's account, and approve of your Conduct herein. We likewise approve of the subsequent steps taken in this business as advised in the 48th and 49th Paragraphs of your Secret Letter dated 11th November last.

98. (120) We approve of the Steps intimated in this Paragraph.

99. (121 & 123) We are very much pleased with the prospect held out in these Paragraphs of a speedy payment of the Old Balances due from the Rajah of Benares, and of a punctuality in realizing the Current Kists.—Our Sentiments at large upon this Province are contained in our Letters of the 14th March 1786 and 27th March 1787.

100. (124) Needs no reply.

101. (125, 126) Replied to already.

102. (127) We are very glad to find that the Rajah of Benares approves of the Conduct of Mr. Grant we hope he will continue to merit both his approbation and ours.

103. (128) Needs no reply.

104. (129, 130) We hope you will be able to punish the Person who forged General Sloper's name to a Persian Letter addressed to Ally Ibrahim Cawn,<sup>2</sup> in order to prevent a similar transaction in future, you will of course inform us of the result of the Trial.

105. (131) We have perused the Account of the present state of Napaul, referred to in this Paragraph and have no particular observations at present to make thereon.—You will continue however to forward Copies of similar descriptions that may come into your hands.

106. (132 & 177) Such observations as may be necessary to make on these Paragraphs relative to the Privileges claimed by the French will be conveyed to you through the Secret Committee.

107. (178 & 182) These Paragraphs relative to the Claims of the Dutch on the Bombay side of India will be replied to in the advices to that Presidency.

108. (183 & 185) The claims of the Danes mentioned in these Paragraphs cannot be decided on until a final Adjustment shall be made by the French.

109. (186 & 370) These Paragraphs will be replied to under the head of *Military Department*.

110. (371) It is with much concern, we observe that the Judges of the Supreme Court, have shewn an unwillingness to cooperate with us in making such Retrenchments as might be practicable in the Offices under them, and in the instance stated in this Paragraph, we observe they decline to act as Justices of the Peace unless the full Establishment of ministerial Offices which we had directed in part to be reduced was continued as the Peace and good order of the Settlement might probably have been affected by such their Refusal we cannot disapprove of your having continued the full Establishment for the Acting Justices notwithstanding our directions, but we see no reason why any excess of allowances in the Establishments belonging to or connected with the Supreme Court of Judicature, should not undergo a revision, as well as every other Establishment in India, we therefore direct you to take that matter under your immediate consideration, and report to what retrenchments may in your opinion be made on the Offices belonging to or connected with the Supreme Court of Judicature, and if from the nature of their institution there is any obstacle in making such Retrenchments as appear to be reasonable, we shall take the proper measures for obtaining the Sanction of the Legislature to accomplish that purpose.

111. (372 & 378) We have examined all your Proceedings relative to the Claims of Mr. John Bristow formerly Resident at the Court of Nabob Vizier. We cannot consent to allow Mr. Bristow's Claim for Salary during the time he was removed from the Office of Resident at the Vizier's Court prior to December 1783—were we to admit thereof, we should authorize the Payment of the Salary for this Office in a double Capacity, first to the Person appointed on

Mr. Bristow's removal from the Residency, and again to himself while removed.

112. With regard to the Claims stated in Mr. Bristow's Letter of 16th May 1786, We approve of your determination not to allow the first Article in the Account No. 1 namely for Salary from 15th June 1781 to October 1782.

113. Respecting the Second Article in that Account as We find Allowances were made on similar Grounds to many other Persons whose Offices were abolished and particularly as Mr. Bristow's Assistants had their Salaries continued to them after the Residency was withdrawn Your Resolution for admitting his Claim for Allowance as Resident from February 1784 to February 1785 has our Concurrence.

114. We also approve of your Resolution to pass the Account No. 2 containing a Claim for Salary and Allowances during Mr. Bristow's Residence at Lucknow from October 1780 to June 1781, provided the same have not before been paid; but as your Buxey's Books for that period are not received we cannot ascertain this matter here. It appears however by the General Journal of 1781-2 Page 338 that the Allowance for Dawks had been paid for the Month of June 1781 part of which Month is included in Mr. Bristow's Bill, and you will therefore be careful that the account is properly examined.

115. (379, 380) The Allowance you have given to Mr. Cowper of 900 (Nine hundred) Rupees P. Month during the time he was out of Office from January 1784 to February 1785, greatly exceeds the Allowance drawn by that Gentleman while Assistant to the Resident at Oude, and as the Indulgencies granted to Servants unemployed have been in general only those they drew while in Office, and more particularly as the other Assistants at Oude were allowed only the same Salaries after withdrawing the Residency which they before enjoyed, we cannot consent to your determination in favour of Mr. Cowper, but direct that he be allowed only the same Sum he drew from the Company while Assistant to the Resident at Oude from January 1784 to February 1785.

116. With respect to Mr. Cowper's Claim for an Allowance while unemployed in 1781 as it seems similar to that preferred by Mr. Bristow for the same Period, We are of Opinion that it cannot be admitted.

117. (381 & 398) (403 & 408) The matters contained in these Paragraphs under the head of Reforms, relating to the Military or Revenue Departments will be replied to under those Departments.

118. (399) We refer you to our Orders of the 27th March last respecting the General Bank established at your Presidency.

119. (400) Needs no reply.

120. (401, 402) On an Attentive perusal of the Comparative Statement of your Marine Charges in 1776/7 and 1784/5 We are convinced of the propriety of our former Orders for reducing them

within the Sum of CRs. 3,50,000 (Three Lacs, fifty thousand) and of the practicability of carrying the same into execution—and though the Marine Contract on it's present footing, amounts to 3,00,000 (three Lacs) of Rupees, yet we are of opinion that as in 1776 it was only Crs. 2,59,200 (Two Lacks fifty nine thousand two hundred) this may in future be Reduced.

121. The necessity for keeping up a number of Yachts is not apparent to us, and as we observe by the Account of Marine expences 1784-5, the Contingent Charges amount to a very considerable Sum, We direct that with your earliest convenience you take the whole Expences of the Marine Department into your consideration and trust you will be able to effect considerable Reductions therein so as to bring them as near as possible to the Sum limited by us.

122. (409, 410) We approve of the measures advised in these Paragraphs.

123. (411) Needs no Reply.

124. (412) We approve of your having carried our Resolutions respecting Persian Masters into execution.

125. (413 & 414) Though the rate of Exchange which you have established for paying the Subsistence to the Servants out of employ will give to each a greater Number of Rupees annually than we had in view when we issued our Orders of 21st September 1785 respecting them yet we shall not for the present require any alteration to be made therein as when the different Establishments are completed we expect to incur very little Expence on this head.

126. (415 & 421) Require no Answer.

127. (422 & 424) We much approve of the mode adopted respecting the Contingent Charges of the Army by an immediate Inspection and Audit thereof by which means we trust this Source of expence will be confined within the most moderate Bounds.

128. (425, 426) Require no Answer.

129. (427) We have received the Accounts of your different Establishments as they stood on 31st Decemr. 1785, by the Ranger, from whence it appears that the Civil Charges exceed the Amount limited by our Orders in the Sum of Current Rupees 5,95,000 five Lacks ninety five thousand.

130. (428) We have also received a Comparative Abstract Statement of the Established Charges in the several Departments of your Government as they stood on 31st January the 31st December 1785 and 30th June 1786, with the Increase and Decrease which of course includes the Account mentioned in this Paragraph.

131. (429, 430) We are aware of your want of power to Controul the expences of the Supreme Court the increase of which since 1776, you state at Crs. 1,75,000 (One Lack seventy five thousand) in this we imagine is included the Salaries to the Company's Law Officers, some reductions in which we have already directed to be made.

132. (431) Requires no Answer.

133. (432, 433) The Expences of the Establishment at Benares we have agreed by our Letter of 27th March last should be considered as an excess above the (20) Twenty Lacs limited for the Civil Charges and we also consent to the subsistence to Servants unemployed in this Department being considered in the same light, this Expence as we have already observed will not however probably be of long Continuance.

134. (434) We refer you to our Letter before mentioned for such further Remarks as apply to this Head and hope that the directions contained therein will enable you to bring the Civil Charges nearer to the Standard we have prescribed.

135. (435) The Reply to this Paragraph is contained in that to Paragraph 401.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
dated the 11th November 1786\*

136. (Para 1 & 7) Need no reply.

137. (8) Altho' we do not think ourselves at liberty to allow you any Latitude respecting the resolution of the General Court of Proprietors, restricting the Governors and Councils of the respective Presidencies from making any Presents to Servants in India without the Orders of the Court of Directors, yet we do not think the Case referred to in this Para' comes exactly within the meaning of the Resolution.

138. (9) We are sorry to learn from your late dispatches that your endeavors for the relief and improvement of the Province of Furruckabad, have been almost entirely frustrated by the weakness and imbecility of the Nabob's Conduct.—We have perused Lord Cornwallis's Letter to the Nabob of the 6th December,† and as it was his Lordship's intention to take this Subject into consideration, we shall wait for your next advices before we give you any further instructions thereon.—We fear that little good can be expected even from the best endeavors of the Resident, whilst the management of the Country continues in the hands of the Nabob.—It occurs to us, that perhaps he may be persuaded if not to part with the entire rule, to Associate his Uncles and Brothers in the Government with him; but, as before observed, we do not think it proper at this time, for the reasons above stated, to give you any positive directions herein.—And this will serve as a Reply to the 39th, 40, 41, 42, and 43rd. Paragraphs of your Letter to the Secret Committee of the 11th November last.

139. (10, 11) Need no reply.

140. (12) In replying to your late Voluminous Dispatches, we have been much perplexed on account of the subjects not being kept clear and distinct under the respective Heads.—We do not wish you to write to us through any Department upon Subjects which the Act

\*See *Fort William. India House Correspondence*, Vol. XV, pp. 757-91.

†See letter No. 944 in *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. VII.

of Parliament has directed to pass through the Secret Committee, but where Secrecy is not required, we wish the whole Court of Directors to be informed of the transactions of your Government, and with this view, we direct you to correspond in your Public Department, upon the Subjects which at present, are treated of, in what is called the *Secret Department*. By doing so we shall be informed of every thing we wish, to be informed of; and that confusion will be avoided, which obviously arises from having correspondence carried on, both in a *Secret Department*, and through a *Secret Committee* whereas the Subjects passing through the *first* of these Departments, are seldom of a secret nature, and nothing ought to come through the *last* but what is so—We must again take this opportunity of desiring your particular attention to carry on your Correspondence under the four heads of Public, Revenue, Military, and Commercial which four Divisions are sufficient to take in every Subject, on which you can have occasion to correspond with us, except in so far as in terms of the late Act of Parliament, you have occasion to correspond through the Secret Committee.—We likewise direct that each separate Head, as above mentioned, must form the Subject of a separate dispatch.—These orders being so essential to the regular conduct of your business, we expect your Commands to your Secretaries to observe them, will be carefully attended to.

141. (13 & 76) Such observations as it may be thought necessary to make on these Paragraphs will be conveyed to you, thro' the Secret Committee.

142. (77 to 105) (108 to 155) These Paragraphs are replied to under the head of *Military Department*.

143. (106, 107) We very much approve of your determination that all Supplies of Stores and Provisions to be sent to the other Presidencies in future, shall be provided by Contract on Public Advertisement, the same being consonant to the general tenor of our Orders upon this Subject.

144. (156) Needs no reply.

145. (157 & 161) Need no reply.

146. (162) We have perused the Papers referred to in this Paragraph respecting the Bond Creditors of the Bombay Presidency, and can only refer you to our Orders of the 11th April 1785, upon this Subject, We are of opinion that these Claimants are entitled to an equal attention with the Bond holders at our other Presidencies, and have accordingly equally attended to them in all the Orders we have given, or mean now to give relative to our Debts in India.

147. (163) Our Orders in Paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Letter of the 21st July 1786, preclude the necessity of a Reply to this Paragraph.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
Dated 22nd December 1786\*

148. (Paras 1 & 5) Need no Reply.

\*See *Fort William. India House Correspondence*, Vol. XV, pp 805-24.

149. (6 & 24) Such directions as it may be necessary to give on the subject of these Paragraphs, will be conveyed to you through the Secret Committee.

150. (25 & 26) Need no reply.

151. (27 & 89) These Paragraphs are replied to in the Military Department.

152. (90 & 91) We approve of your having agreed not to make any allowance to Chaplains who may find it necessary to return to Europe.

153. (92 & 96) These Paragraphs are replied to in the Military Department.

154. (97 & 106) We approve of the Regulations advised in these Paragraphs particularly those directing the payments of the Balances of Cash in the hands of the Salt and Opium Superintendants, and Collectors of Customs, into the Khalsa Treasury whenever they amount to Ten thousand Sicca Rupees—in times of the greatest emergency we observe by your Quick Stocks, that very considerable Balances have remained in those Officers hands, particularly the Salt Comptroller and Agents, whose Balances have been from five to Eleven Lacs of Rupees at different Periods, in the five last Years.

155. We direct therefore that it be made a Standing Order of your Government, that no Officer do on any Account retain a larger Balance in his hands, than will be required for the next Month's Disbursements, the surplus must be paid into the General Treasury of the Department, under which such Officer acts, and the Balances of the Khalsa or Commercial Treasuries into the General Treasury in the manner you have directed, unless you shall see a particular necessity for deviating from this Rule.

156. (107) This Paragraph is replied to in the Revenue Department.

157. (108) This Paragraph is replied to in the Military Department.

Answer to such parts of the Letter of the 11th November 1786 to the Secret Committee\* as ought to have been inserted in the Public Letter.

158. (Para 6 & 7) For our sentiments and directions on the Affairs of Tanjore, we refer you to the enclosed Copy of our Letter to Fort St. George by the present Dispatch, beginning with Para. [.....]

159. (8) We approve of your Proceedings respecting a Complaint from the Nizam of irregularities said to have been committed by the Company's Servants in the Talook of Cummun,<sup>s</sup> and were glad to find by the 6th Paragraph of your subsequent Advices of the 22nd December that the Nizam is satisfied therewith.

\*See Fort William. India House Correspondence, Vol. XV, pp. 792-805.

160. (24) We approve of the authority you have given to Mr. Malet our Resident at Poonah to draw on you for the whole of his Disbursements, and of your Resolution to charge those that belong to the Bombay Presidency to its Debit.

161. (25) We likewise approve of the Appointment of Mr. Joshua Uthoff to succeed Mr. Wilkinson as Assistant to the Poonah Resident.

162. (26) With respect to Mr. Malet's being appointed to the care of the Interests of the Nabob Wallau Jah at the Court of Poonah,<sup>4</sup> we approve of your determination that in future no Servant of the Company representing your Government at an Indian Court shall receive any Orders or Instructions but thro' the Company's Government.

163. (36) We hope the intended Visit of Hyder Beg Cawn to Calcutta will be attended with beneficial consequences. You will learn our sentiments in general with respect to the Vizier's Affairs in our answer to your Letter in the Secret Department of the 23th August 1786.

164. (38) We have already approved of your Resolution not to interfere between the Nabob Vizier and his private Creditors.

165. (39 & 43) Already replied to.

166. (45 & 47) We approve of the Instructions to Mr. Grant relative to the Zemindary of Benares, as stated in these Paragraphs. You will find that they accord in general with our Idea upon the subject as communicated to you in our Letters of the 14th March 1786 and 27th March 1787.

167. (48 & 49) We have already signified our approbation of your Proceedings relative to the Debt due to Gopal Doss.

Answer to such parts of the Letters of 22nd December 1786 to the Secret Committee\* as ought to have been inserted in the Public Letters

168. (Para. 6) Already Replied to.

169. (7) Your conduct respecting the Gingera disputes<sup>5</sup> has met with our approbation and you must be always extremely cautious how you interfere in disputes with the Country Powers.

170. (8) We are very much pleased with the information contained in this Paragraph respecting the liquidation of Debt due to the Rajah of Travancore and for Paying off the Arrears due to Hyat Saib' in consequence of our Orders of the 1st February 1786.

171. (15 & 16) Being sensible of the Zeal and Abilities of Lieutenant Anderson in the Office of Resident at the Court of Madajee Scindia we are extremely sorry that his ill state of health has obliged him to quit a Station which he filled with so much honor to himself and advantage to the Company. We hope however that Captain Kirkpatrick, whom you have appointed to succeed him, will equally deserve our approbation.

\*See *Fort William. India House Correspondence*, Vol. XV, pp. 825-34.

172. (17) Needs no Reply.

173. (18 & 24) We have already remarked that before we give you any further directions upon the affairs of Oude we wish to avail ourselves of the opinion of Lord Cornwallis upon the subject. In the meantime we approve of the attention you have shewn towards the discharge of the Arrears due to our Troops employed in the defence of the Vizier's Territories.

174. (25 & 29) We have already as before observed signified our approbation of your Resolution not to interfere between the Vizier, and his private Creditors, and for the reasons you have stated we approve of your having declined calling for a List of the Private Debts of the Nabob to British Subjects lest the same might be construed into an implied intention of giving assistance to recover them. With respect to the Sums actually paid into the Treasury at Lucknow on account of Mr. James Fraser previous to the Receipt of your Instructions prohibiting the Accountant there from receiving any Money except on account of your Government we think you acted Right in furnishing his Attornies with an Order upon that Treasury for the Amount thereof.

175. (30) We cannot form any opinion upon this Paragraph for want of the Letter from the Vizier therein referred to.

176. (31) We have already given you our directions respecting the Province of Furruckabad.

177. (32 & 34) As we have not before us the Proceedings referred to in these Paragraphs we must postpone giving any particular reply thereto at present.—We approve however of your determination respecting the alienated Lands in the Zemindarry of Benares.

178. (35 & 36) Need no Reply.

179. Herewith you will receive, several Copies of an Act of the 26th of His Present Majesty, Chap 40, for regulating the production of manifests,\* &Ca and also of an Act, passed, the last Session of Parliament Chap. 32, Relating to various Subjects, to which we must call your particular attention, that the provisions thereby made, to prevent smuggling, may be punctually and strictly complied with, and that thereby the Company, and the Owners of their Freight Shipped, may be protected from any penalty or Inconvenience.—You'll observe that the first Clause in the former of these Acts, very particularly directs, what shall be the Contents of every Manifest, and subsequent Clauses, appoint how each Manifest is to be authenticated and transmitted to Europe, and what regulations, the Captain is to comply with on the Ship's arrival. The mode of authenticating Manifests, directed by the Act of the 26th of the King being inapplicable to the case of the Company's Ships is remedied by the 11th Section of the last above mentioned Act which directs the Manifests to be delivered to, and authenticated by the Person who shall deliver the last Dispatches, for Europe, and who must be a Servant of

\* Not available in N.A.I. Copy.

seven years standing, and with respect to Ships to be Dispatched from China, the Manifests or Contents must be delivered to, and authenticated by the Chief Supra Cargo, and be transmitted in Duplicate as appointed by the first Act.

180. That the Captains and Officers of our Ships may be enabled to comply with these Acts, and avoid any involuntary violation thereof, we direct that you give a Copy thereof to each Commander, and apprise them and their Officers of the necessity of complying therewith, and that in the outset, you pay what attention you can to the Manifests they make up, the Authentication thereof and the transmitting the same to Europe, if they are regular in the commencement of these regulations, they will afterwards continue so, but mistakes in the beginning may not afterwards perhaps be easily corrected.

181. We also direct, that you make these Acts, and our orders thereon as public as possible, not only to the Commanders and Officers of the Ships, who may be at your Presidency, but also to those at all our other Settlements, in the East Indies, and at China, that the same may be obeyed in the strictest manner.

182. The Directions contained in our Letters of 26th September 1782 and 15th January 1783 for not admitting into our Service Persons resident in India unlicensed by us or licensed only under certain restrictions or conditions, have not been sufficiently attended to, otherwise the appointing such Persons Chaplains as in the Instances of Messrs Mackinnon Brown, Goddard and Secombe and other Persons in similar Situations to various Offices could not have taken place.

183. By several Acts of Parliament and particularly by the Act of the 26th of His present Majesty Cap. [sic] 57 Sections 34 to 37 the Power vested in our Governments abroad for sending to England Persons resident in India without our License are clearly explained—but if instead of putting in Force those Powers, our Governments in India not only connive at the Residence of unlicensed Persons but even proceed so far as to give them lucrative Appointments every Regulation adopted by the Legislature or by us to obviate this Grievance will be in vain, and we may suffer the mortification of having valuable Offices filled up by Persons entire strangers to us and of whose abilities and Integrity we have no Assurance.

184. We hope and trust we shall have no Cause to complain of this in future. We shall pay proper attention to the supplying your Establishments from hence and as a means of preventing unlicensed Persons from proceeding to India. We direct that on the Arrival of every ship you call on the Captain to give in a List of his Passengers and Crew, specifying each Person of the latter description who came out and will continue the Voyage with him, with an Account of Casualties on the voyage and each Passenger either for your Presidency or any other, stating such as may have been left at any Port the Ship may have touched at.

185. With these Lists before you, you will be enabled to discover, what Persons proceed with or without our License, and also such as having come out as Officers or otherwise of our Ships under pretence of Sickness or other Cause are left in the Country, and you are to be careful that all those of the two latter Descriptions have immediate notice to quit the Settlement under the Pains and Penalties of the aforesaid Act unless you shall be satisfied that the Plea of Ill health is well founded, in which Case you will allow such time as you may think necessary for the removal of the Party.

186. As it is probable that Many unlicensed Persons proceed to India on the Ships of other Nations, We trust to your Care and Attention that such Persons will on your being informed thereof immediately be directed to leave the Settlement.

187. And we further direct that in future you give positive orders to the Master Attendant, or to the Person you shall employ to dispatch the several Ships carefully to muster the Ship's Company and Passengers and to require the Commander to produce to him your Orders for every person under the latter description proceeding to Europe, and if it shall appear to him that there is any Passenger on board without your authority, or any Person mustered on the books whom he has reason to suppose is not actually one of the Ship's Company, but who adopts that method of returning to England with an intention of evading out orders respecting unlicensed Persons, in either case he is to notice particularly in the list of Passengers transmitted to our Secretary here, the names of such Passengers whom he shall discover on board without proper orders for proceeding to Europe.

188. Being fully sensible of the great advantages which would result from a regular intercourse between England, and the British Possessions in the East Indies, through Egypt, we have appointed George Baldwin Esqr. His Majesty's Consul in that Country,<sup>7</sup> to be the Company's Agent at Cairo, for forwarding their Dispatches, that may pass by that Route.

189. Mr. Baldwin has entered into Covenants, and to carry on any Trade whatever to, from or with India, and we have agreed to make him a suitable allowance.

190. In order to carry the purposes of Mr. Baldwin's appointment into effect, we have formed a Plan, which has been approved by His Majesty's Post Master General, and in consequence thereof, we direct that on the 30th November annually, you dispatch one of the Company's armed Cruizers to Suez, with orders to call at Fort St. George, where she is not to remain more than 2 days from whence she is to sail to Bombay, where likewise, she must not remain more than 2 days—She must then proceed to Suez from whence Mr. Baldwin will return her with the Company's Dispatches to India, agreeably to such orders, as he may receive from us.

191. Private Letters to, and from India, may be permitted to be forwarded with the Company's Packets, but we strictly enjoin you to make the private Letters, a separate parcel, from the Company's

Packet, and not to include in the latter any Letters from Individuals. Both the Packets must come directed to the Court of Directors, and after taking those belonging to the Company, we shall send the others to the General Post Office here, from whence, they will be distributed.

192. We direct that the Packets, be made up in Tin Boxes, and the directions to us stamped thereon, taking care that the Boxes be well soldered. We think this precaution may obviate the necessity of the Quarantine, to which all Packets made up in Cloth are subject.

193. On or before the 10th of June annually we have determined to send our Dispatches for India from hence, after which time, there might be a risk of disappointment as the Cruizer ought to leave Suez by the 10th August.

194. We have received only one Letter from Mr. Baldwin since his arrival in Egypt, which was dated the 19th January last at Alexandria, from the then unsettled state of Affairs there, he had not made any final Settlement, with the Beys, and Bashaws, for opening the communication thro' Suez to the English, but appeared confident he soon should; he had however appointed Hagi Dervish, a Native of Cairo, his Agent at Suez, and James Wilferman a German, his Agent at Alexandria.

195. The Plan has been communicated to His Majesty's Post Master General, who has been pleased to promise us his concurrence for the conveyance of the Letters from London to Leghorn, and from thence hither.

196. Having thus communicated to you, all the particulars of our plan, we shall trust to your carrying it into effect. Possibly, the Ranger may reach Bengal early enough to enable you to send us a Dispatch, soon after her arrival, either direct from Bengal to Suez, or should time admit, even permitting her, to touch at the Fort and Bombay; in her way thither.—Altho' we think an Armed Vessel should convey your dispatches, we recommend your preferring a small one, for as it probably may be detained at Suez, till the beginning of August, to carry our dispatches, of the latter end of May, or beginning of June, the employment of a large Vessel, on that Service, would be attended with a very heavy expence.

197. The greatest attention must be paid to prevent any goods being loaded on board the Vessel, either outward, or returning from Suez<sup>s</sup>, and should the smallest article whatever, be found on board, you will instantly dismiss from the Company's Service, the Commander, and the Officers to whom the Goods may belong.

198. We have accepted the Bills drawn upon us from your Presidency the 29th of November 1786, for Fifteen hundred Pounds (£ 1500) on account of the Estate of the late Mr. John Brown, but having observed on Reference to our Orders of the 5th of July 1780, authorizing the Remittance of this Sum, that the time fixed by us for remitting the same, was confined to the then ensuing Season;

and it being on several accounts expedient that whenever Remittances are allowed by us as an indulgence to Individuals, the time for making such Remittances should be limited, we direct, that in case any Person or Persons hereafter being allowed by us the indulgence of a Remittance, do not avail themselves thereof, within the time prescribed by our Orders, their Claim to the Remittance designed them, be forfeited unless very substantial and satisfactory reasons shall be assigned by them for not having claimed the same in due Season.

199. In the 80th Paragraph of this Letter we informed you that we had entered into an inquiry on the subject of your complaint respecting Captain Gregorie of the Manship as to his receiving Deserters belonging to the Garrison and of the Result of the said inquiry—Since writing the above Paragraph Captain Rattray of the Phoenix whom we examined on that occasion notwithstanding his positive assertion to us that he never received your Orders not to ship any European as a Seaman or otherwise' till he had been examined by the Fort Major and it had been certified by him that such European did not belong to our Military Service has delivered to us among other Papers relating to his late Voyage the very Order in question, and as on this assertion added to that of Captain Gregorie to the same effect, we were induced to believe that the delivery of such an Order might have been omitted and in consequence to suspend our determination respecting the conduct of the latter Commander; We think it necessary to mention the circumstance and direct that on any future misconduct in any of our Commanders in this respect, you put in force the Powers we gave you in the 12th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 21st September 1785 and immediately remove such Commander or Officer from his Station; Both Captain Gregorie and Captain Rattray were informed, in their Instructions from us of the directions we had given you on this subject and they were also particularly cautioned in those Instructions not to receive a single Man on board their Ships at any of our Presidencies without first producing him at the Town or Fort Major's Office to ascertain whether he was a Soldier or not, and directed to enjoin their Officers to observe the same Orders; able for their Officers acting in disobedience thereto should they they were also further acquainted that they would be made answer-plead Ignorance thereof, notwithstanding which the said Commanders both positively insisted that they were unacquainted with any such Order.

200. The Deputy Governor and Council of Fort Marlborough have informed us that Captain Forrest of the Esther Brig had without their Privy or Consent and in disobedience to their express Orders proceeded on a Voyage to the Northward—and that they have protested against him for the same.

201. You will therefore make a strict enquiry into the Conduct of Captain Forrest in this Proceeding and pursue such measures as you shall think proper thereon.

202. Having yet only received the Broken Sett of your Proceedings in the Secret Department of Inspection, and which are very

incomplete, especially those for 1785, wherein there is a Chasm from the 30th August to the 11th October—we direct that Complete Setts of those Proceedings be immediately prepared and forwarded to Us; and that you continue to send all your Proceedings in Duplicate as ordered in our General Instructions of the 29th March 1774—Your Military Consultations for November 1786, are also defective; the Proceedings of the 6th of that Month not being received.—We have also similar Complaints to make with respect to your Consultations in the Public Department, in those of the 28th March 1786, there appears to be several sheets wanting, a Complete Copy of that days Proceedings must therefore be immediately supplied, as well as the Omissions in the Consultations abovementioned in the Military and Inspection Departments and we direct that the respective Secretaries in those Departments see that the Person whose business it is to make up the Packets, be more careful that we may not have to complain of such negligence in future.

203. In a former part of this Letter, We gave you directions for carrying into effect the arrangement we have made for securing a regular intercourse between England and the British Possessions in India.—Upon further consideration of the recent accounts of the present state of Egypt, We think proper to direct you to postpone carrying these directions into execution' till you receive further Orders from us.

204. In the 314th Paragraph of our Letter of the 27th March last, We expressed our doubts as to the Utility of the Establishment of the General Bank of India, and directed that no encouragement should be given thereto. We have since received your advices by the Talbot, together with Letters from Lord Cornwallis of the 11th January, and 17th February last, upon the Subject of an Agreement entered into with the Directors of that Institution; and as we observe that the same is likely, in your opinion, and in the Opinion of His Lordship, to be productive of the most Salutary effects we think it our duty to reconsider our former Opinion at more leisure and shall then give you our Directions at large, In the mean time we approve of what you have done and you will continue to act in conformity thereto till you receive directions from us to the contrary.

205. Since writing the preceding part of these Dispatches, we have received your Advices by the Earl of Talbot and Ganges, by the latter of which we received a duplicate of your Advices P. Berrington. But as the period we had fixed for the departure of the Ranger is long since elapsed, and as we wish you to be early in possession of what we have already written, we must postpone a particular Reply to those Advices until the departure of the Ships of the ensuing Season.

206. We think it proper to observe to you, that when in this, or other Leters, we barely say, that any Paragraph *needs no reply*, you will not from thence understand, that the subject is not attended to by us, but only that it does not require any special Instructions to be forwarded to you at present, but you may rest assured, that

every Subject on which you think proper to correspond with us, will meet with our early and deliberate attention.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

London  
the 31st July 1787  
Exd. T. : Ethington

John Motteux/Nath Smith/John  
Hunter/John Roberts/Jacob  
Bosanquet/Hugh Inglis/W. Bens-  
ley/John Travers/T. Pattle Jun./  
Thos Cheap/John Townson\*/ Jas.  
Moffatt/W. Elphinstone/John Man-  
ship.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

### No. 3

Received at Fort St. George pr. Barwell Indn.

Received from Do. at Fort William

21st May per Hastings Schooner.

Exd. W. Wood

No. 1 Reced Per Ranger

Received 19 Feby 1788

Opened & read in Council

20th Feby. 1788.

### Enclosure

[Vide Para 8]

*Resolutions of the Court of Directors respecting private trade in Arrack etc.*

AT A COURT OF DIRECTORS of the United East-India Company, held on Friday the 6th April, 1787.

RESOLVED,

THAT no Arrack or other Spirits be permitted to be shipped in *India* or *China* on any of the Company's Ships returning to *Europe*, except such as shall be for the Use of the Ship's Company on the Voyage, or in the immediate Privilege of the Commander and Officers.

THAT each Cask or Chest, shipped for the Use of the Ship's Company, shall be marked "STORES"; and each Cask or Chest, shipped on the private Account of any of the Officers, shall be marked with the Name at length of the Person to whom it belongs; and such Casks or Chests as shall not be so marked, shall be taken and deemed to be the Property of the Commander.

\*Occurs at the end in No. 1

THAT in order to ascertain the Sums to be charged, as hereafter mentioned, before the respective Accounts shall be adjusted and passed the Court, the Arrack and other Spirits received into the Company's Warehouse shall be the first Private-Trade Articles put up to sale by each Ship.

SHOULD those marked "STORES" be refused to be bought, or not sell for a sum equal to the King's and Company's Duties, the Difference shall be charged to the Owners in their Account of Freight and Demorage.

SHOULD those marked with the Name of the respective Officers of the ship, or those deemed to be the Property of the Commander, in the same Manner, sell for less than the Duties as before specified, the difference shall be charged in their respective Accounts of Private Trade; but should it so happen that an Officer, importing Arrack or other Spirits, has not a sufficient Quantity of other Goods to answer the Deficiency arising as aforesaid, then in that Case such Officer shall not be employed again in the Company's Service until he has paid the Amount of such Deficiency into the Company's Treasury.

THAT this Regulation be printed and delivered to the Husband of each of the Company's Ships, and to each Officer at the Time of his being impressed; and that it be likewise transmitted to the Governor and Council at each of the Company's Presidencies, &c. and to the Supra Cargoes in China.

Signed, by Order of the said Court,  
THOMAS MORTON, Secretary.

Pub : Dept.

Regulations regarding the Shipping of Arrack and other Spirits on board the Company's Ships.

No. 21.

Accompanying the Public Letter from the Court of Directors Dated 31st July 1787.

RESOLUTION OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,

APRIL 6, 1787,

RESPECTING PRIVATE-TRADE ARRACK, &c.

14

LETTER DATED 31. JULY 1787

*Instructions regarding implementation of the revised civil, military and judicial establishments at Benkulen after it had ceased to be Presidency under the Court's orders of March 1785.*

Public Department

○ UR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para. 1. Your Proceedings on carrying into execution our Orders respecting the future Establishment of the Residency of Fort

Marlborough have been under consideration, and we shall here give you our Remarks thereon.

2. We are pleased to observe the strict attention you paid to our directions relative to the Civil Establishment and approve of your Proceedings relative thereto; but in order to shew our consideration of the situation the Servants there may find themselves reduced to and being willing to give every encouragement to their exertions in rendering the Trade of that Coast as profitable to the Company as practicable, we have resolved to allow the following Salaries in lieu of those stated in the List which accompanied our Letter of the 7th March 1785.\*

To the Deputy Governor . . . . .	6000	Dollars P. annum
2nd In Council & Commandant . . . . .	3000	Do.
3rd Do. . . . .	1600	Do.
4th Do. . . . .	1600	Do.

3. The Salaries of the Civil Servants should be issued in Paper Currency without Interest but to relieve them from any inconvenience thereby we shall admit of Bills of Exchange being drawn upon us for such part as may be required at an Exchange not exceeding five Shillings the Dollar, provided the Funds from hence and the Supplies from your Presidency shall not be sufficient for the Charges of the Residency and Investment for Europe and China.

4. As we have appointed Eight Writers for Fort Marlborough, we apprehend there will be no occasion for employing Native or Portuguese Writers in the Offices there.

5. We approve of your Resolution respecting the granting freedom to those Slaves at Bencoolen who are capable of supporting themselves, on the condition of their giving their labour or furnishing their produce of Pepper to the Company when called upon taking care that they are in both instances paid for the same at the usual rate. With respect to those who by age or Infirmary are unable to procure a maintenance. We direct that a small annual pension be granted them so as that they may not experience the want of the necessaries of life.

6. Respecting the Marine Force necessary for the Bencoolen Establishment, we are of Opinion that one Vessel of 50 Tons will be sufficient and we therefore approve of your having directed the Elizabeth & Ranger to be struck off the Establishment.

7. We approve of the Orders you issued for making a Survey of the Seas and Islands round Fort Marlborough and direct that Copies of every performance of this Kind be sent to as by the earliest opportunity.

8. Respecting the Military Establishment for Bencoolen we observe by your Proceedings of 21st March 1786, The Commander in

\* To Fort Marlbro'.

Chief recommended that it should consist of one Company of European Artillery and three Companies of Sepoys which he stated was as near the Establishment of 1757 as could then be formed and was agreed to accordingly, but on receipt of our Orders of 21st September 1785 it appears by the 241st Paragraph of your Secret Letter of 28th August, 1786 you resolved it should be one Company of European Artillery two Companies of European and four of Native Infantry we are however of opinion that the two Companies of European Infantry may for the present be dispensed with and that the Peace Establishment consist of one Company of European Artillery and three Companies of Native Infantry which is conformable to the strength recommended by the Committee who were appointed at Fort Marlbro' to examine the Charges of the Settlement and also to Mr Crisp the late Governor's Opinion; these Companies to be exactly on the same formation as the Bengal Companies.

9. If this Force could be made a Detachment from the Bengal Army to be relieved every three or four years, we think it would have the good effect of inuring them to Service and Discipline in a much better manner than if a separate Corps and in order to reconcile the Sepoys to the Voyage by Sea, we should not object to their being allowed a Gratuity of two or three Months pay on their embarking for the Coast of Sumatra; but as this may be an obstacle not easily surmounted and you have given it as your opinion that the Fort Marlbro' Establishment should be entirely a separate one; we shall acquiesce therein if you are on mature deliberation still of that opinion, in which case you will consider what is to be done with the Troops now at that Settlement.

10. We have attentively considered the references made to us in your Secret Letters of 28th August and 11th November 1786 respecting the Officers now at Bencoolen and shall give you our Sentiments regarding them.

11. We are of opinion that Major Phillips may be appointed second in Council & Commandant at Fort Marlbro' but with no further allowances than those granted him as second in Council and as we do not approve of the Commission of Major given that Gentleman by the Bencoolen Government in December 1784 we direct that the Commandant's rank be that of Major by Brevet only and we cannot consent to his being allowed an Aid de Camp as the Adjutant will be able to perform all the duty required in that Office.

12. If Lieutenant Colonel Murray returns to his station at Fort Marlbro' he is to be appointed Commandant and to have the same allowances and Rank as now assigned to Major Phillips who must then be considered as Supernumerary, but we shall consent to his receiving Captains Pay as a compensation for his Supercession.

13. Respecting the other Officers now on the Bencoolen Establishment, we have attentively consider'd your several references relative to incorporating them into your Establishment.

14. We are aware that some difficulty may arise as to the mode of effecting such incorporation for as most of the Captains and Subalterns on the Bencoolen Establishment have served only six

or seven years as Officers in the whole, if they were incorporated into your Army according to the dates of their Commissions they would supercede many deserving Officers who have been several years longer in our Service, and such Supercessions we shall always wish avoided.

15. A difficulty something similar occurs, as to placing them on your Establishment youngest of their respective Ranks, as from the short time the Bencoolen Officers have served, a Captain of 5 Years standing in the Service would be placed above Lieutenants of ten.

16. On the other hand if the Bencoolen Officers were only to take rank in your Army according to the time of their admission into the Service, this would place a Captain very low in the rank of Lieutenants on your Establishment, and a Lieutenant low on the List of Ensigns.

17. Another mode suggests itself to our consideration namely that of appointing the Bencoolen Officers youngest of their respective ranks on your Establishment with a bar to their rise till the Officers of the next inferior rank who have been longer in the Service are promoted.

18. We must own that the latter arrangement conforms nearest to our Ideas of incorporating the Bencoolen Officers, as less injurious to the rights of those of your Establishment who may be looked upon as having a preferable claim from length of Service to our consideration in this Instance.

19. But as we have left it to your discretion either to make the Bencoolen Military Establishment a Detachment from your Army or a separate and distinct Corps, this subject is necessarily involved in any determination respecting it and confiding therefore in your Justice and impartiality and in the peculiar abilities possessed by the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Governor General relative to matters of Military discussion, we refer the whole to your serious consideration and shall abide by your decision thereon.

20. In whatever manner you determine this subject we think as they must be better acquainted with the nature of the Service, the Officers now at Bencoolen should be appointed to command the Troops for that Settlement as far as the number required, the remainder will in either instance be considered as the full pay of the ranks assigned them.

21. We have resolved that the Officers and Troops for Bencoolen whether a separate Corps or a Detachment from your Army shall receive the Pay and Batta annexed to the same ranks in your Service but as the Military Duties of the Settlement will not probably be equally laborious with those of Troops serving in the Field under your Establishment we can admit only of full Batta being allowed.

The Captain of Artillery will then draw as follows.

Pay	Sonnt. Rups.	. . . . .	140	P.M.°	1680	P. Annum.
Gratuity	. . . . .		36	P. M.	432	
Full Batta	. . . . .		6	P. Day	2190	
Sonnt. Rups.					4302	

#### Each Lieutenant of Artillery

Pay	Sonnt. Rups.	. . . . .	70	P.M.°	840	P. Annum
Gratuity	. . . . .		24		288	
Additional Pay	. . . . .		1	P. Day	365	
Full Batta	. . . . .		4	P. Day	1460	
Sonnt. Rups.					2953	

#### Each Lieutenant Fireworker

Pay	Sonnt. Rups.	. . . . .	60	P.M.°	726[sic]	P. Annum
Gratuity	. . . . .		12		144	
Additional Pay	. . . . .		1	P. Day	365	
Full Batta	. . . . .		3	P. Day	1095	
Sonnt. Rups.					2324	

Each Lieutenant of Sepoys when this rank commands a Company

Pay	. . . . .	St. Rs. 2	P. Day	730
Additional Pay	. . . . .	1		365
Full Batta	. . . . .	4		1460
Gratuity	. . . . .	24	P.M.°	288
Sonnt. Rs.				2843

Each Ensign when commanding a Company of Seapoys

Pay	Sonnt. Rs.	. . . . .	1-6/10	P. Day	584
Additional Pay	. . . . .		1		365
Full Batta	. . . . .		3		1095
Gratuity	. . . . .		12	P.M.°	144
Sonnt. Rs.					2188

These Allowances will be a liberal addition to the pay now drawn by the Officers on that Station and will remove the difficulty complained of by them in their Memorial of 14th October 1785 addressed to your Government and as we are of Opinion they are

fully equal to the Services that will be required they are on no account to be exceeded.

22. We direct that the pay of the Troops at Bencoolen be issued partly in Copper and the Pay &ca to the Officers on the same plan as the Civil Servants and Bills of Exchange in like manner to be granted on us if necessary.

23. We think it proper to call your attention to the value of the Rupees in circulation at Fort Marlbro' which we find by the late Governor General's Minute on Consultation 21st February 1786 are converted into Fanams at 10½ P. Rupee but as it is stated that owing to this valuation, the Dutch, Chinese and others make a profitable trade by carrying Rupees to Batavia or the other Dutch Settlements where the Rupee passes for 12 fanams, we are of opinion it would be more adviseable to rate it at the latter valuation.

24. We direct that you inform yourselves fully on the State of the Fortifications and Civil Buildings at Fort Marlbro' of which latter if any Superfluous ones remain you must take care that they be sold or otherwise disposed of, that we may not be put to the Expence of repairs, such of the Fortifications as you are of Opinion are necessary to be kept up, must be so done at the least expence possible conformable to what you have already directed and which directions we approve.

25. As the Arrack undertaking does not appear to have been of advantage to the Company but on the contrary has been productive of a very heavy expence and great abuses have prevailed in the manufacture of this article by making it considerably under proof as noticed particularly on the Fort Marlbro' Consultations of 1st September 1785 and as it has been represented of a more unwholesome nature than the Batavia Arrack, We approve of the directions given by you for the Sale of the works, with the conditions annexed of the Manufacture being carried on free of charge to the Company.

26. In order that we may reap every advantage possible from the Settlements on the West Coast of Sumatra, we trust that your attention will be particularly turned to the Article of Pepper, the annual produce we find stated by Mr. Crisp at 1500 Tons but we are of opinion if properly attended to it may be increased to 16 or 1800 Tons if not further.

27. The prime Cost of Pepper as received at Fort Marlbro' is stated by that Gentleman at 4 Dolls. 1 qrs. 20 Satelles P. cwt. but we hope every possible exertion will be made by our Residents to procure it at a more reasonable price. \*

28. Supposing 1500 Tons to be the Annual Produce, we are of Opinion that 700 may be sent to China and the remainder to England.

29. In order to convey the quantity to China we shall direct a Ship annually to proceed to Bencoolen with Stores & ca for the use of the Settlement from whence she may take the quantity before-mentioned to Canton.

30. We are informed that a considerable Trade in Gold, Camphire and Benjamin is carried on from Nattal and Tappanooly<sup>1</sup> and we direct that you endeavour to ascertain if any, and what advantage may be derived to the Company therefrom which will lead to a determination on the propriety or otherwise of withdrawing these Settlements the latter place seems worthy of attention also on account of its Harbour and the quantity and quality of the Masts that are produced there, which might with proper management be rendered beneficial though the first attempt we are aware has turned out unprofitable to the Company, it is also stated that refreshments may be obtained there for a large Fleet.

31. Towards the provision of Funds for the purchase of Pepper and the maintenance of the Settlement—We are of opinion that 200 Chests of Ophium may be annually supplied from Bengal Invoiced at Spanish Dollars 250 P. Chest which we apprehend may be sold to advantage at Bencoolen but even at prime Cost will provide Spanish Dollars 50,000 and if the Sale proves more advantageous the Import may be increased to 300 or 400 Chests, and which we doubt not may be effected as we have lately received a Letter from John Crisp Esqr. the late Governor of Fort Marlbro' offering on behalf of himself and Messrs Moore and Braham two other Gentlemen of that Establishment to contract for 500 Chests annually on the average amount of the Sales of Bengal to pay one half of the amount in six Months after delivery into the Treasury at Fort Marlbro' and the remainder into the Treasury at Canton in the course of the Season but this proposition we have declined acceding to, as we think the Trade may be conducted with proper care more to the advantage of the Company on their Account by their Servants at Fort Marlbro'.

32. As it will be necessary that a Ship should be sent to Bencoolen to bring Pepper to Europe we shall give directions that one be dispatched first to Bengal to receive the Ophium, Stores &ca for that Settlement and there to take in a Cargo of Pepper for England.

33. In the proposals by Mr. Crisp before mentioned the Article of Punjum Cloth<sup>2</sup>, is stated as proper for the West Coast Trade, and if you find it likely to be of favourable vend, we direct that you cause a quantity to be provided and sent thither, and at all events that you make trial of a small parcel by an early opportunity.

34. With respect to the administration of Justice at Fort Marlbro' we understand that the provision in the Charter of Justice obtained for that Settlement whilst it was a Presidency cease and cannot have effect the same not being applicable to the circumstances of the Place now it is reduced to a Subordinate Factory, but a Charter we are now soliciting from Government for appointing an additional Number of Justices of the Peace at each Presidency will make the Chief of each Subordinate Factory a Justice of the Peace, which we hope will be sufficient to preserve good Order at Fort Marlbro' and

if any extraordinary criminal Offences shall be committed or any Civil Suits arise which cannot be settled by Arbitration they must be sent to the Supreme Court at Bengal to be tried.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

John Motteux/Nath Smith/John  
Hunter/John Roberts/Jacob  
Bosanquet/Hugh Inglis/W. Bens-  
ley/John Travers/T. Pattle Junr/  
Thos Cheap/Jas Moffat/W. El-  
phinstone/Jn. Townson\*/John  
Manship.

London  
the 31st July 1787.

Exd. Dorion Exd. W. Wood

[Endorsement]

No. 2 Received 19 Feb. 1788 Per Ranger.

Company's Separate General Letter to Bengal, respecting Fort Marlborough, No. 4.

Received at Fort St. George pr. Barwell Indman. Received from do at Fort William. 21st May per Hastings Schooner.

15\*

## LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1787

*Rates of duties on imports into and exports from England revised—new sets of standard weights—specimens of copper currency for Bengal—diamond trade at Benares.*

Commercial Department

**OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.**

Para 1. The Legislature having made a through [sic] Revision of the Duties and Drawbacks payable and receivable on the several Articles of Merchandize imported into and exported from this Country and very much simplified the same by a consolidation, We transmit for your Information such part thereof as in any manner relates to Articles of Imports from the East Indies or China. From the Reduction which has taken place in many of the Articles, particularly Drugs, we are in hopes the most beneficial Consequences will ensue by an Extension of our Commerce in those Articles, as the principal Temptation for Foreigners dealing therein which was the supplying the Demands of this Country is now in a great Measure done away. An unremitted Attention on your parts to the Qualities and Prices of your Purchases seems now the only thing wanting to advance our Commercial Interests, and we earnestly trust that in this Respect you will not afford us room for Complaint. A Copy of the Act at large is also herewith transmitted.

\*Occurs at the end in No. 2

2. We repeat the directions contained in the 46th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 22nd December last touching the assistance to be afforded to the China Funds through the medium of Commerce in order to lessen as much as possible our Remittances from hence in Bullion or the draining any of our Indian Settlements of Specie. Our other Governments have instructions to the like effect and we trust that all our Servants will cordially unite and cooperate in forwarding our views in this respect.

3. In our Letter of the 27th March last Paragraph 274 We mentioned that we should supply you with three Setts of Weights of the Factory maund and its divisional parts down to a Scer, the one of which was to remain in the Custody of our Governor General and Council to serve as a standard for adjusting the Weights on all future occasions, and the others to be taken into use in our Export and Import Warehouses. As these Weights were not finished in time to send by the Minerva you will now receive them by the Ranger Packet, and you will take care to bring them as much as possible into general use until another system may be adopted. The Set to remain with the Governor General and Council are marked "Standard" and in the Box which contains them are a number of printed Cards which specify the different weights and their contents reduced to English Avoirdupois weight a few of which We desire may be distributed to the different Subordinates for their guidance in respect to purchases in Weighable Goods.

4. We have laden on the Ranger 105 Chests containing 210 cwts of Copper Coinage for the use of our Settlement at Fort Marlborough which we direct may be forwarded to them by the earliest opportunity. Specimens of the Coins are sent you under No. 12 of this Packet. The above with what we transmitted them P. Francis amounts to 13 Tons fourteen hundred weight part of a quantity of 18 Tons intended as a supply for the year 1786 but which owing to unavoidable impediment[s] that have occurred could not be completed in time for this conveyance, the remainder will be forwarded by some subsequent dispatch, and we shall put in hand 30 Tons more as an additional supply for that Settlement for the ensuing Season.

5. As we are desirous of extending the Export of Copper Coin from this Country we renew our directions of the 22d December last Para 22 that you send us Specimens of every species of Copper money Current in Bengal, adding thereto your Opinion how far it may be expedient to send you over a quantity and to what extent. Particular care will be taken here in the execution of them and we conceive it may prove equally beneficial to us and useful to your Provinces to keep you regularly supplied therewith. Drawings for the reverse sides of the Coins, a description of their proper weights calculated in Avoirdupois grains as also the number of each sized piece that will be given in exchange for a Rupee (describing also what Rupee) must accompany your information.

6. Of the Specimens now transmitted the small size weighing 50 Grains Avoirdupois are rated to pass at 400 to the Dollar, the middle

size of 100 Grains [at] 200 to the Dollar and the large of 150 Grains at 133 to the Dollar which will serve for your guidance in calculating the proportions, the Coins shall bear to the Rupee, which we would have ascertained as near as possible by the same ratio.

Answer to the letter in the Public Department

dated 12th November 1786

7. (Para' 5 & 20) As you could not provide Cargoes for all the Ships that arrived in Bengal in the Course of the past Season, we approve of the manner in which you agreed to dispose of the Hillsboro', Lansdown, Foulis and Ravensworth.

8. (21) In reply to this Paragraph you are to observe that the Order in which our Coast and Bay Ships are to be dispatched from your Presidency must be determined by the Commencement of Demorage, which is four months after their arrival at Fort St. George or Bengal.

9. (22) In reply to this Paragraph we refer you to Instructions drawn up by Mr. Dalrymple, a Copy of which makes a number in the Packet.

10. (23 & 25) Need no reply.

11. (26 & 28) We approve of your Conduct relative to the quantity of Salt Petre to be laden on board the homeward bound Ships.—We must observe that this matter is regulated not by an Article in the Charterparty, but by a Resolution of the Court of Directors; and whenever any alteration shall be made therein, you will be duly advised thereof.

12. (29 & 30) As you had not sufficient quantity of Goods to complete the Loadings of our freighted Ships, We approve of the indulgence granted to the Commander of the Hillsboro', Lansdown and Foulis, upon the terms mentioned in these Paragraphs. But whenever you may deem it expedient to grant a similar indulgence to Captains must be restricted by an express stipulation from taking in any Goods at Canton on account of their Privilege.

13. (31) Needs no reply.

14. (32 & 34) We have lately received an application from Mr. Israel Levin Salomons requesting us to give directions for carrying into effect the purposes of the appointment of Mr. Lyon Prager to be the Company's Inspector and purchaser of Drugs in Bengal and also that he be permitted to act as a Free Merchant; and having taken into consideration a Letter from Mr. Prager on the subject of his appointment entered on your Consultations of the 9th October 1786 with your General Letter dated the 13th November 1786 respecting Mr. Prager's proposal We direct that Mr. Prager be not considered Inspector and Purchaser of Drugs for the Company in the manner stated by him in his said Letter; That he be restricted to the purchase of such Drugs only on the Company's account as the Board of Trade may deem it for the Company's benefit to purchase thro' him, and that he do, on no account, make any purchases in the articles of Opium, Indigo and Salt Petre.



Engraved by Kistler from an original drawing by John Brown

*Dalrymple*

ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE  
2101 - 1881

Alexander Dalrymple



15. We have agreed that Mr. Prager's allowance, if employed, be one tenth of the net average Profit, realized in England, on the Drugs so purchased by him after deducting the amount of freight, duty charges insurance and interest valuing the current Rupee at two Shillings, as advised in our Letter of the 12th April 1786.

16. With respect to that part of Mr. Salomons request that we would permit Mr. Prager to act as a Free Merchant we have determined not to comply therewith.

17. We have persued Mr. Prager's Letter of the 28th September entered on your General Consultations of the 29th and approve of your not having subjected the Company either to the risk, or to the expence of sending down Diamonds from Benares to Calcutta—We likewise approve of the advertizement which you agreed to publish expressive of the terms upon which other Persons will be allowed to reside at Benares for the purpose of dealing in Diamonds and Pearls for the Europe Market.

18. We very much commend the attention paid by Lord Cornwallis to our Commercial concerns as mentioned in the 5th Para<sup>r</sup> of his Letter to the Court of Directors of the 27th December last, upon the complaints against the conduct of our Supra Cargoes for engaging in monopolies and combinations to the detriment of trade in general. We approve of his Lordship's intentions to prosecute this enquiry further, and his Lordship may rely on our cooperation and support in his endeavours to put an end to a practise so prejudicial to the Trade to the Eastward.

19. We are much pleased with the progress made by Lord Cornwallis towards instituting the Bill against the Persons concerned in the provision of former Investments, as advised in his Lordship's Letter to the Secret Committee of the 28th December 1786.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends.

John Motteux/Nathl. Smith/John  
Hunter/John Roberts/Jacob  
Bosanquet/Hugh Inglis/W. Bens-  
ley/John Travers/T. Pattle Junr/  
Jn. • Townson/Tho. Cheap/Jas.  
Moffatt/W. Elphinstone/John  
Manship.

London  
31st July 1787.

Exd. J. Farvell

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal No. 2 Received at Fort St.  
George P. Barwell Indman. Recd. from Do. at Fort William 21st May  
P. Hastings Schooner.

## LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1787

*Full statement of the Company's finances to be annually submitted to the Parliament—close scrutiny of the statements of the Company's debts as well as the estimated surplus revenues in India as computed by Lord Cornwallis—the Company's Indian debts amounting to six crores of rupees in all to be transferred to England within next six years.*

## OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para 1. We have seen with great pleasure the particular attention which you have given to the important subject of our Finances. Lord Cornwallis' Letter of the 16th November 1786, and the several accounts which accompanied it, have received our most serious consideration. And we shall in this separate Letter, state to you some remarks on these Papers, together with such Orders and Instructions, as are necessary for carrying into effect the measures which we have resolved to adopt, with relation to this subject, and although the propriety of these measures seems in our Opinion to depend, rather on a general view of our Affairs than on many of the particulars to which we may have occasion to advert in the course of this Letter, we have nevertheless thought that a detailed investigation of them will tend to a greater degree of accuracy on this subject, and that it must be satisfactory to you to perceive that nothing which you have stated relative to it, has escaped our observation.

2. But before we enter on these points, we think it proper to inform you that it has been determined to submit annually to the inspection and consideration of Parliament a full state of the Company's Finances with a view to the just support of our credit, and to the maintenance of principles of economy and good government in every part of our administration.—We transmit to you by this conveyance the Papers which were presented by us to the House of Commons in the last Session of Parliament, and the Resolutions formed there upon\*— You will observe from them what were the points to which the attention of Parliament was more particularly directed.— And you will be careful to furnish us with any observations which may occur to you upon the Resolutions themselves, and with such Accounts as may enable us to lay before Parliament from year to year, the most accurate information of the state of our Affairs under the several heads which are there stated.

3. You will see that a comparison is formed in these Resolutions between the latest Estimates transmitted to us from our several Settlements, and Averages of the actual amount of our Receipts and Expences in former years.— It is intended that this comparison shall hereafter be made between the estimated and actual Accounts of the same year. The Papers which we have received from Bengal in the three last Years, under the title of, "An Account stating the difference between the Estimate of the probable resources and disbursements of the Bengal Government, and the actual receipts and

\* Not available in the N.A.I. copy.

Issues between 30th April, and 1st May"—Although they afford much interesting information do not however answer our intentions in the Orders of 8th July 1785. nor would they be sufficient for the purpose above stated.

4. Our wish is that every estimate which we receive from India should in future be followed as soon as possible by an account drawn up precisely in the same form as the Estimate itself, and opposing to each article of estimated Receipt or Expenditure the actual amount of the same within the period for which the Estimate was framed.—We must observe here that we have hitherto received no Accounts whatever of this nature from Madras or Bombay.—We now send to those Presidencies such Instructions as appear to us necessary for enforcing our former Orders on this subject, and if it has not been done already, you will transmit to them a plan for this purpose, in order that we may in future regularly receive from all our Settlements uniform Accounts made up to the same period, and exactly corresponding with the Estimates of Receipts and Disbursements.—You will also send to England annually an abstract of the whole, observing always that the transmission of your own Accounts is not to be postponed by reason of any delay, which may arise in the receipt of those from Madras or Bombay.

5. We have adverted to the observations of our Accountant General with respect to the Orders upon this subject which were contained in our Letter of 8th July 1785.—We have already agreed to an increase of Mr. Larkins's allowances and we hereby authorize you to make such additions in the number or allowances of the persons employed under him, as may in your opinion be necessary for carrying our Orders into full effect, and for affording sufficient encouragement to our Servants to engage in this line of our Service, the due execution of which we deem a point of the highest importance to the Interests of the Company.

6. The plan pursued by Lord Cornwallis for stating our Affairs in this Letter of the 16th November 1786, was to ascertain, first, what was the Amount of the Company's Debts in India, as it then stood, and as it would probably stand on the 1st May 1787.—And secondly, what surplus could be found for its liquidation from our resources in India, beyond our ordinary expenditure.—We shall observe upon these two points separately.

7. The amount of our Debt, as it stood in November 1786, is computed by Lord Cornwallis from a comparison of the Debts of the Company with the Assets applicable to their discharge, as they severally appear on the Quick Stock Accounts of our different Presidencies, Vizt. Bengal 31st July 1786, Madras 31st January 1786, and Bombay 30th April 1786. An Abstract of which was transmitted by him, exhibiting on the whole a Balance against the Company of Current Rupees (3,10,00,950) Three Crores, Ten Lacks, Nine hundred and fifty.—This Balance he states to be encreased, first by an addition on the Debit side of the Account, and secondly, by a deduction of several Items on the Credit side as not applicable to the extinction of our Debts in India.—The whole of such increase, he appears to have estimated at about Current Rupees (440,00,000)—Four Crores Forty Lacks, as he supposes the ultimate Balance against

the Company to be, not less than Current Rupees (7,50,00,000).—Seven Crores, fifty Lacks instead of (3,10,00,000).—Three Crores, ten Lacks.

8. The addition on the Debit side consists of the Arrears which were due to the Military at Madras and Bombay, the whole of which Lord Cornwallis, was not able to ascertain, but conceived that no part of them were included in the Debts appearing on the Quick Stock Accounts of those Presidencies—On recurring however to the Quick Stock Accounts received from Madras, it appears to us that the arrears due to the Military on the 31st January 1786, were included in the Sum of Pagodas (41,45,602).—Forty one Lacks, forty five thousand, six hundred and two, stated as the amount of Debts owing by that Presidency at that time. The Sum of Pagodas 15,64,590.—Fifteen—Lacks, Sixty four thousand, five hundred and ninety—part of the above Sum being as appears by the enclosure.—A, charged on account of Arrears estimated to be due to the Troops and Garrisons in the Carnatic, to the Deputy Agents of the Southern and Northern Armies, to Military Paymasters, and other similar Articles; which Sum at (425).—Four hundred, and twenty five Rupees P (100)—One hundred Pagodas (the rate of Exchange adopted in Lord Cornwallis's Dispatch) is Current Rupees, 66,49,507. Sixty six lacks, forty nine thousand, five hundred and seven, being about two Lacks and an half of Current Rupees more than you had at the time of writing that Letter, engaged to appropriate for this service from your Treasury.—We are confirmed on this opinion by the Quick Stock Accounts, since transmitted to us from Fort St. George, and framed at a period, when that Government, was acquainted with the appropriation of such a Sum from Bengal.—In the first of these Accounts dated April 30th 1786—the Military Arrears are wholly omitted being stated in a Note to have been paid, or to be in a course of payment by Bills on Bengal and the whole amount of our Debts at Fort St. George is stated at Pagodas 29,38,454—Twenty nine Lacks, thirty eight thousand, four hundred and Fifty four.—In the second dated 31st July 1786,—a sum of 7,905—Seven thousand Nine hundred and five Pagodas only is included for Military Arrears, and the whole amount of Debts is stated at Pagodas, 27,02,009—Twenty seven Lacks, two thousand & nine.

9. With regard to Bombay, the information, We possess is so defective as to preclude us from forming any calculation of the amount of our Debts, at that Presidency except from Accounts of too remote a date to be now depended upon for any degree of accuracy. It appears however to us that Military Arrears to a considerable Amount must be included in the Sum of Bombay Rupees (43,75,308) Forty three Lacks, seventy five thousand, three hundred and eight stated in Lord Cornwallis's Account No. 5, as owing by that Presidency for Deposits, Arrears &c :—On the 30 April 1786—We observe by their Quick Stock Account of the 31st October 1785 that the amount of their Debts, exclusive of Bond Debts, and of military Arreas, was then stated at no more than Bombay Rupees (6,14,714) Six Lacks fourteen thousand, seven hundred and fourteen.—And we cannot think it probable that so great an addition as that of Rupees (37,60,594)—Thirty Seven Lacks, Sixty thousand, five hundred and ninety four, can have been made to this Article in the course of six Months, without, including military Arrears.

10. The deductions from the Assets which are particularised by Lord Cornwallis fall under the three Heads of *Stores, Exports* and *Debts*, outstanding.

11. The Articles of *Stores* and *Export Goods* although forming a material and valuable part of our property in India, and as such rightly inserted in the Statements of *Quick Stock* appear nevertheless to us to be properly excluded by His Lordship from the amount of *Assets*, which could be considered in the ordinary course of our Affairs as available at any particular time to the discharge of debts, then owing by the Company.—The same observation applies with equal force to that part of the debts outstanding which consists of advances made for the provision of an Investment.—The Debts from *Ragonaut Row*<sup>1</sup> and *Berar Government* are also with propriety excluded from the Amount of *Assets*, and we have already given direction for their being omitted in the future Statements of *Quick Stock*.

12. We do not conceive that there is the same reason for the entire omission of the outstanding Balances from the Northern *Circars*; these Balances having undergone a very minute investigation under the Government of Madras, after which the Sum of *Pagodas* (7.85,189) seven Lacks eighty five thousand, one hundred, and eighty nine, equal to Current *Rupees*, thirty three Lacks, thirty seven thousand and fifty three, appears by their *Quick Stock Account* of 31st July 1786 to have been stated as the Amount of Balances from the *Circars* then considered as good, and in a course of recovery.—The whole however of these Articles specified by Lord Cornwallis together with the addition of Current *Rupees* (64,00,000) Sixty four Lacks (the Sum engaged for by your Government on Account of Madras Arrears) would according to the following computation amount to little more current *Rupees* (3,46,00,000) Three Crore, forty six Lacks. Vizt.

Sale of Stores	73,48,930
Export Goods	36,60,610
Loans to Berar Government	11,60,000
Debt from Ragonaut Row	44,32,000
Balances from the Northern Circars	78,29,000
Investment Debts about	38,00,000
	2,82,30,540
	64,00,000
On Account Madras Arrears	3,46,30,540

The remaining Sum of (94,00,000) ninety four Lacks being the difference between this Sum and the (4,40,00,000) four Crore, forty Lacks added by Computation to the Balance against the Company is no where specifically explained, but is we apprehend allowed by Lord Cornwallis for a further encrease of Military Arrears (particularly at Bombay as above stated) and for several dubious Articles of outstanding Debts not particularly specified.

13. With respect to these two Points we have already stated our opinion, that Arrears due to the Military at Bombay must have been included to a considerable amount in the Quick Stock Account from which Lord Cornwallis formed his statement of the Debts of that Settlement, and from an investigation of the different Articles comprized under the Head of Assets in our several Quick Stock Accounts, we are led to believe that the whole of the dubious Articles, not particularly specified in Lord Cornwallis's Letter, would not amount to more than from (30 to 35) thirty to thirty five Lacs of Current Rupees. This Sum therefore is all which on this supposition would be to be added to the Sum of (2,82,30,540)—two Crore, eighty two Lac, thirty thousand five hundred and Forty above stated; While on the other hand a Sum nearly equal thereto is to be deducted from it on account of Balances from the Northern Circars, part of which to the amount of Current Rupees (33,37,053) Thirty three Lacs, thirty seven thousand, and fifty three, is supposed to be good, tho' the whole, is disallowed in his Lordship's statement.

14. In the account No. 8 of those laid before the House of Commons the amount of our Debts in India is stated as they appeared from the latest Account we had received, (some of which are posterior to those that accompanied Lord Cornwallis's Letter), and without any reference to the Assets applicable to their Discharge or to the amount subscribed for Bills, as it was not conceived that either of those points could then be ascertained here with sufficient accuracy.

15. In this manner of stating the Accounts our Debts in India appeared to be no less than current Rupees (9,26,40,162) nine Crore, twenty six Lacks, forty thousand one hundred and sixty two, which exceeds the amount stated in the Abstract of Quick Stock transmitted by Lord Cornwallis, by Current Rupees (35,14,644) Thirty five Lacks, fourteen thousand, six hundred and forty four

### **This difference arose**

1st	From Carrying down the amount of the Bond Debt at Bengal to the latest period according to the Advices we had received, being the Treasury Accounts to 1st November 1786, by which it appeared that the Bond Debt including computed Interest thereon had been increased from 31st July (the date of Lord Cornwallis's statement) by the Sum of	17,48,436
2nd	From the increased amount of Certificates between 31st July and 1st November, being with the Interest computed thereon about	52,15,363
3rd	From the Increased Amount of the Bombay Bond Debt between the 30th April and 1st September 1786, as stated in No 5 Accompanying his Lordship's Letter	15,58,874
4th	From the Debts owing at Bencoolen not included in his Lordship's Statement	9,33,687
		<hr/> 94,56,360 <hr/>

But the Debts at Madras as are taken in this Account from the Quick Stock of that Presidency, dated 31st July 1786, in which a very small Sum only is inserted for Military Arrears, whereas the Quick Stock of 31st January, referred to by his Lordship includes upwards of 66,00,000—Sixty six Lacks of Current Rupees on that Account.

The difference less in the latter Statement of the amount of Debts is	58,75,451
---	-----------

The amount due on Account of the 4 P C. Remittance Loan, is omitted, being payable in England	20,949
---	--------

And on the Bengal Account a small Sum is omitted, being for old Debts, not likely to be demanded about	45,315
--	--------

---

59,41,715

---

Current Rupees	35,14,645
----------------	-----------

---

The other Sums due for Arrears &c : &c :—at Bengal and Bombay are taken at the amount stated in Lord Cornwallis's Account No. 5. No Accounts of a later date having been received by us at the time these Accounts were prepared.

16. From the Accounts which we have since received Pr. William Pitt, it appears that on 28th December last our Bonded Debt has been further increased at Bengal by the Sum of about 15 Lacs & thirty thousand Current Rupees on account of Military Arrears transferred from Madras, and allowing for any further increase of Certificates for discharging the whole of those Arrears if they are not all included in the former amount, and in the increased Bonded Debt, we conceive we are fully justified in assuming that the whole of our Debts in India could not in December last much exceed (9,50,00,000) nine Crore, and a half of Current Rupees including the Sum subscribed to the remittance Plan of 15th September 1785.—We have not been able to bring down the Accounts of Assests to the same period, but the deductions to be made from the Credit side of our Quick Stock Accounts abstracted by Lord Cornwallis, are above computed at about (2,80,00,000).—Two Crores and eighty Lacs leaving the Sum of about (3,00,00,000).—Three Crores as the Assets available at that period—being the latest at which we can form any computation of them—Assuming this therefore, as their Amount the balance against the Company being the excess of their debts above their Assets would according to our statement of them amount to about Ct : Rupees—(6,50,00,000).—Six Crores fifty Lacks.

17. In Order to set in a clearer light our observations on this Subject, we think it right to annex the following comparative Statement of the amount of our Debts as stated in Lord Cornwallis's Letter, and as above computed by us.

Lord Cornwallis's Statement

Statement as above explained :—

Bengal Debts Pr. Quick Stock July 1st	Ct. Rs. 3,89,222	Bengal Debts, computed to Nov. 1st, 1786	4,58,87,756.
--	------------------	---	--------------

Madras Debts Pr. Quick Stock 21st January, which Sum appears to us al- ready stated to include Military arrears	1,76,18,812	Madras Do : Pr. Quick Stock 31st July, with some additions as Pr. Account	1,17,43,362
Bombay Do. Pr. Quick Stock 30th April	3,25,16,483 <u>8,91,25,518</u>	Bombay Pr. Account Sepr. 1st	3,40,75,357
To this Sum of Debts, Lord Cornwallis appears to add (as above stated) For Madras Arrears, which he supposed not to be included above	64,00,000	[Sic]	
Total of Debts	9,55,25,518	Bencoolen	9,33,687
		Total of Debts Pr. Ac- count No 8.	9,26,40,162
Deduct available assets, allowed by Lord Corn- wallis, being the differen- ce between 5, 81, 24, 567 the amount stated in the Quick Stocks and 3,76,00,000, the amount deducted by him specifi- cally or included in the Sum of 94,00,000 being either for additions to arrears or further deduc- tion from Assets	2,05,24,567	To the above Sum of Debts is added to us, increase of Bond Debts at Bengal as since ad- vised	15,30,000
Statement by us	7,50,00,951 <u>6,50,00,000</u>	Further addition allowed to the Certificates as above explained	8,29,838
Difference	1,00,00,951	Total of Debts	9,50,00,000
		Deduct available assets being the difference be- tween Ct. Rs. 5,81,24,567 and such part of Lord Cornwallis's specified deductions as appear to us to be properly sub- tracted from the avail- able assets and omitting nearly Ct. Rs. 60,00,000 of the Ct. Rupess 94,00,000 as so much of this Sum as arises from addition to Arrears is included in Our amount of Debts, and as there are no grounds before us for any deduction from the Assets to a greater amount than from* about Ct. Rs. 30,00,000 to about Rs. 35,00,000	3,00,00,000
Lord Cornwallis's Account adds to the Debts stated in the Abstract of the		Remains	6,50,00,000
		Our Account includes Debts more than stated in the abstract of the	

three Quick Stocks for Madras Arrears	64,00,000	three Quick Stocks as follows : Vizt. :—	
		Increased Debt stated by us	
		at Bengal	68,97,534
		Do.	
		at Bombay	15,58,874
		Do.	
		at Bencoolen	9,33,687
			<hr/> 93,90,095
		<i>Deduct :—</i>	
		Stated by us less at	
		Madras	58,75,450
			<hr/> 35,14,645
Addition by us	58,74,483	ADD	
Difference of the amount of Debts by our Account and that of Lord Corn- wallis	5,25,517	For increase of Bond Debt since advised and for further Allowance for increase of Certificates	23,59,838
Lord Cornwallis allows for assets	2,05,24,567	Total Addition	58,74,83 [Sic]
Supposing the whole sum of (94,00,000) ninety four Lacks to be considered as deducted from the Assets, the effect of which is the same upon the Balance as if part were so deducted, and part added to the Amount of Arrears.		Our Account allows for assets	3,00,00,000
		Lord Cornwallis's	2,05,24,567
		Difference of Assets more by our Account	94,75,433
		Debts less as above	5,25,577
			<hr/> 1,00,00,350

It appears therefore that the Debts are nearly the same in the two Accounts, and that the material difference arises from the supposition that Current Rupees (33,37,059) thirty three Lacks, thirty seven thousand and fifty nine of the Balances of the Circars are recoverable, and that no more of the (94,00,000) Ninety four Lacks above stated ought to be allowed for the unexplained Articles of unavailable Assets than about Ct. Rs. (35,00,000). thirty five Lacks.

18. We do not think it material in this place to enter into a similar examination of the Amount of Debts estimated by Lord Cornwallis on the 1st May 1787 as much of what is above stated with respect to the Account already Investigated applies equally to the latter period, and as our Account of Debts is brought down to within little more than four Months of that time, so that we are wholly unable to decide how much of the (23,00,000) Twenty three Lacks of Current Rupees, allowed by him for a probable encrease of the deficiency on the

general Estimate of Receipts and Disbursement may have actually accrued and may form part of the Additions made by us (as above stated) to the Balances appearing on the Quick Stock Accounts, and at all events it does not appear to us that whatever may have been the actual difference between the estimated and real Disbursements on the 1st May 1787, can properly be added to the whole Amount of Debts as resulting from the Balances of Quick Stocks framed at an antecedent period; As the Estimate itself provides for the payment of a considerable part of those Debts previous to the 1st May 1787.

19. In forming the Statement of Surplus Revenue in India, Lord Cornwallis has proceeded on the Estimates of our several Presidencies for the Year 1786 '7 deducting on each side of the Accounts what appeared to be extraordinary Receipts or Payments. It is of extreme importance to us to ascertain how far the Estimates differ from what may be expected to be the Amount of our resources and disbursements in future Years. With this view we shall proceed to state to you some remarks upon them, as far as we are enabled so to do from the information of which we are possessed separating from the other heads of expense the allowance for investment or for Interest of Debts and reserving these as points of Distinct consideration. We regret much the deficiency of the Madras & Bombay Accounts, and especially of the latter, by which we are prevented from forming as accurate a calculation as we could wish of the future Amount of our Revenues and Expences at those Settlements.

20. The ordinary Revenue of the Government of Madras, as resulting from their Estimate is stated by Lord Cornwallis at Pagodas (28,93,717) Twenty eight Lacks. Ninety three thousand Seven hundred and Seventeen, but this Sum includes Pagodas (2,20,843) Two Lacks, Twenty thousand Eight hundred and forty three to be received from the Sale of Europe Goods and Stores, the Revenues therefore arising from the Presidency itself appear to be Pagodas (26,72,873) Twenty six Lacks, Seventy two thousand, eight hundred and Seventy three. Lord Cornwallis observes that no allowance is made in this Estimate for Balances of Revenues. We are not able to ascertain what allowance ought to be made on this head, nor does it clearly appear that Credit is taken in the Estimate for the whole Amount of the Current Revenue of the Years, on which supposition alone any such Allowance for Balances ought to be made.

21. The expense after deducting some extraordinary Disbursements is stated by Lord Cornwallis at Pagodas (29,56,305) Twenty nine Lacks fifty six thousand, three hundred and five, but this Sum includes.—

For Interest on Debts	1,73,581
Provision of Investment	2,76,000
Supplies to other Presidencies	12,300
Pagodas	4,61,881

which Articles being deducted, the Ordinary expenses of the Goevernment will appear to be Pagodas (24,94,424) which gives a Surplus of about Pagodas (1,78,449) One Lack Seventy eight thousand four hundred and forty nine, equal to Current Rupees (7,58,408) Seven

Lacks fifty eight thousand, four hundred and eight, from which it should seem that the resources of this Presidency may fairly be supposed more than adequate to the Current expences of it's Establishments, exclusive of the pay of his Majesty's troops, supposing even that the Article of balances of Revenue should occasion some deduction from the Annual Amount of Receipts.

22. From the Bombay Estimate but little information can be drawn respecting the state of the Current Expenses of that Settlement, nor are any of the former Estimates which have been received from thence sufficiently clear to throw much additional light on the subject. The total amount of the estimated Receipts is stated at Rupees (23,14,394) Twenty three Lacks, fourteen thousand three hundred and Ninety four and the total of the expected disbursements at (62,71,906) Sixty two Lacks, Seventy One thousand, nine hundred and six, making an excess of near (40,00,000) Forty Lacks of Bombay Rupees, such of the extraordinary receipts including Balances of Cash as can be specifically pointed out, are accordingly to the following Statement of them nearly equal in their Amount to those extraordinary Disbursements, which can in like manner be discriminated, including the provision of the Investment &c. and the Sums specifically deducted from the expences by Lord Cornwallis.—

<i>ExtraorDinary Receipts</i>		<i>Extraordinary disbursements</i>	
Balances of Cash remain- ing . . . .	38,117	Estimate of 2 Cargoes for Europe . . . .	5,00,000
Sale of Copper remaining uncleared in the Ware- house . . . .	2,82,574	Due to the King of Tra- vancore for pepper .	3,78,159
Do. of Warehouse Sales including two Cargoes from Europe } whereof expected to be sold .	6,73,112	Charges in Export Ware- house . . . .	18,000
		Secret Expeditions .	1,20,000
		Due to the Estate of Mr. Shaw and De <sup>s</sup> Souza .	1,04,128
Clearances of Sales of Octr., 1785 . . . .	5,000		
Sales of Stores . . . .	1,73,877	Arrears due to Mr. Ramsay Paymasr. .	67,347
	<hr/> 11,72,680		<hr/> 11,87,634

23. But from this Estimate it is impossible to distinguish how much of the estimated disbursements amounting to Bombay Rupees (62,71,906) Sixty two Lacs seventy one thousand Nine hundred and Six arises from Current expenditure, and how much from the payment of Arrears in other Items of the Account, as no other Arrears are particularly stated but about (3,00,000) three Lacs to the Southern Army, though it is plain on the face of the Account that other Sums are included under this head,

24. By recurring to the Estimate for 1785/6 received from Bombay we observe the Disbursements exclusive of those Arrears which appear on the face of the Account Amount to about (38,00,000) Thirty eight Lacs of Bombay Rupees and that the estimated Amount of the Ordinary Revenues is only about (11,00,000) Eleven Lacs but as several Articles of extraordinary disbursement are evidently included in this Sum of (38,00,000) thirty eight Lacs, We trust that the Current deficiency exclusive of the Interest on the Debts and the Provision of Investment cannot exceed (20,00,000 or 25,00,000) twenty or twenty five Lacks of Current Rupees according to the above calculations the Supply which would be required by Madras and Bombay from Bengal, exclusive of any Commercial Charges would amount to a Sum of, from about (10,00,000) Ten Lack to (17,00,000) Seventeen Lack Current Rupees to be furnished for the Pay of the Kings Troops at Madras, and to about (25,00,000) Twenty five Lacks to provide for the deficiency at Bombay making in the whole a Sum of about (35 or 40,00,000) Thirty five or forty Lacks of current Rupees.

25. The Estimate No. 6 in which Lord Cornwallis has stated the Surplus to be appropriated to the Discharge of our Debts in India, is formed as far as relates to Bengal on the Estimate of 1786/7 But from the late Dispatches received from your Presidency, very considerable reductions appear already to have been effected below those Charges, which are inserted in the Estimate.

26. When [what] the Exact Amount of the Surplus at Bengal may be expected to be in future Years, We do not think ourselves possessed of sufficient Materials to ascertain even if the Extent and Nature of our Concerns at that Presidency, did not render any calculation of this Sort necessarily precarious. We shall however in the same manner as we have done with respect to Madras and Bombay proceed to state to you such Observations as have occurred to us on the Consideration of the Bengal Estimate.

27. And first with respect to the Estimated Receipts.

28. The Mint and Post Office Revenue appear to be stated lower than the actual receipts of former Years, but the whole Amount of what we receive under those Heads, is so small that the difference is not considerable.

29. You have stated the Revenue of Benaras at the full Amount of the Agreement with the Rajah, allowing for the remission on the other side of the Account, And the Receipts from Vizier are estimated at Current Rupees (45,77,973) Forty five Lacks, Seventy seven thousand, Nine hundred and Seventy three Agreeably to the Number of Troops now kept up in that Country. The future Amount of these resources depends on considerations of a political nature, and we have in another Letter stated to you our Sentiments thereupon as far as our present information enables us; and our expectation of receiving from you your opinion on all the points, with which this important Subject is connected; remarking only that if the

Number of our Troops in the Viziers Country, should be diminished it will occasion a decrease of his Annual Subsidy, without a Corresponding diminution in our Military Charges.

30. The Land Revenues after deducting the Balances which may remain uncollected at the end of the year, are estimated at Sa. Rupees (2,63,79,420) Two Crore, sixty three Lacks. Seventy nine thousand four hundred and Twenty, or (3,06,00,000) Three Crore, Six Lacks of Ct. Rupees which exceeds the Average Collections of three Years from 1781/2 to 1783/4 as appears in No. 1 of the Papers laid before the House of Commons, by about (6,00,000) Six Lacks of Current Rupees We are apprehensive therefore that this Amount is more than can be depended on for future Years, And we think this Article cannot well be stated at more than (3,00,000) Three Crore of Ct. Rups. P. Annum.

31. The Customs are estimated after deducting drawbacks at Ct. Rs. (16,24,000) Sixteen Lacks twenty four thousand, which is less by (3,50,000) three Lacks and an half, than the Average Collections of 1782/3 & 1783/4 But the Collection of 1781/2 was only Ct. Rups. (11,01,788) Eleven Lacks, one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, which would reduce the Average of those three Years to nearly the same with the amount estimated for 1786/7.

32. The Net profit on Salt is estimated at only Ct. Rs. (47,56,000) Forty seven Lacks, fifty six thousand, which is about (7,00,000) Seven Lacks less than the Average net Receipts of 1782/3 and 1783/4 You will therefore state to us particularly whether there is any ground to suppose that the profits of the Company on this Article are likely to be reduced in future Years, so much below their former produce. You will also inform us what may probably be the future Amount of our Profits on the Sale of Ophium which We apprehend are inserted in the Estimate for 1786/7, according to the terms of the last Contract.

33. These several Articles amount in the Bengal Estimates for 1786/7 to above (4,65,00,000) four Crore Sixty Five Lacks of Current Rupees allowing for Allowances and Charges of Salt and Ophium and Balances of Revenue. On the lowest Calculation that can be made of each of these, the whole would Amount to upwards of (4,50,00,000) Four Crore, Fifty Lacks and we conceive they may one Year with another be fairly expected to produce in future little short of (4,60,00,000) Four Crore Sixty Lacks.

34. We shall next consider the several Articles of Estimated Disbursements.

35. The Charges in the several Departments appear not only to exceed considerably the Sums limited by our Orders on this Subject but even the actual Amount of the Establishment as transmitted to us in your Statements, and on the whole of this Subject we refer you to the Orders now sent in our answer to your Letter in the Secret Department of the 28th August 1786 adding only some observations

in this place, which appear more particularly to fall within the Scope of this Letter.

36. In the Account received P. Ranger of the Civil Establishments as they stood on the 31st December 1785 they are stated at less than (26,00,000) Twenty six Lacks and on the 30th June 1786 at about (24,50,000) Twenty four Lacks and a half, but it does not clearly appear by that account what Articles are there included. We cannot however in any manner account for so high an estimate being made of the Charges of this Department as near (34,00,000) Thirty four Lacks. But we trust in the next Accounts we receive to find these Charges reduced within the limits prescribed by our Orders with such additions only as we have allowed to be made to them.

37. The same observation applies to the Marine Charges which we estimated at Ct. Rupees (2,20,000) Two Lacks, Twenty thousand, more than limited by our former Orders.

38. The Military Charges also appear much higher than what we should suppose would be the result of our late Orders respecting the Peace Establishments; but as it is stated that the Military Paymaster General had not sufficient time to prepare the proper Accounts for the Estimate We attribute the supposed excess to that cause. But we shall be particularly anxious to receive from you as exact a Statement as can be formed of the Annual Expense of our Army on it's present Establishment.

39. No allowance is made in your Estimate for any Expences that may be incurred under the head of Buildings & Fortifications, the average of which for three Years from 1781/2 to 1783/4 was above (7,00,000) Seven Lacks of Current Rupees P. Annum, which sum is stated in our Account No. 2 presented to the House of Commons. We think it however not improbable that this head of Expense may be included in the Military Contingencies, or what is allowed for the Payment of extraordinaries in the present Estimate.

40. The Charges of Collecting the Revenues and Customs &c. are estimated at Sicca Rupees (71,67,417) Seventy one Lacks, Sixty Seven thousand, four hundred and Seventeen, but this Statement includes Sicca Rupees (15,17,215) Fifteen Lacks Seventeen thousand two hundred and fifteen for Zemindary Charges, part of which is for the Mosheira which has been reduced. It does not however contain the Additional Collectorships, which have been since established. Allowing for both these Articles the Charges appear as in the Account No. 7 received by the Ranger to have been reduced to (69,00,000) Sixty nine Lacks of Sicca Rupees our expectations of a still further reduction in these Charges are stated in the Letter referred to above.

41. Taking all these particulars into consideration and comparing the estimated Amount of the Expences of the several Departments with the more recent Statements which we have received of them and with the Orders which we have sent out relative to this Subject we are inclined to suppose that exclusive of the Interest of Debts and

Commercial concerns your whole expenses for the Current Services at Bengal which are estimated for 1786/7 at Ct. Rs. (2,76,52,000) Two Crore Seventy Six Lacks, fifty two thousand, will not in future Years exceed two Crores and fifty, or at the most Sixty Lacks of Current Rupees.

42. If the different Calculations we have stated to you in this Letter are just or nearly so we may expect at Bengal in future Years a Surplus of about (2,00,00,000) Two Crores above the Current Charges of that Government.

43. From this must be deducted about (40,00,000) Forty Lacks for the deficiency of Bombay for the pay of His Majesty's Troops at Madras for the supply of Bencoolen and the Remainder being about (1,60,00,000) One Crore Sixty Lacks together with the Amount arising from the Sale of Europe Goods, and from Certificates and also from what may be received in each Year on Account of our available assets, constitutes the fund from which provision is to be made for our Commercial Charges in India, for the purchase of Investments to be sent to Europe, and for the discharge of the Interest and principal of our Indian Debts.

44. By the Account Annexed to the Estimate of Cash to 1790 (herewith enclosed) you will perceive that in Order to Answer the demands upon the Company at home for the period to which that Estimate relates, it is necessary that their Sales of Indian Goods should Amount in the Year 1787/8 to (£2,280,000) Two Million two hundred and eighty thousand Pounds and in the subsequent Years to (£2,680,000) Two Million six hundred and eighty thousand Pounds and that this difference is expected to arise from an increased Amount of Madras Goods.

45. The Cost of Investments in India sufficient to supply these Sales would probably not exceed Ct. Rs. (1,30,00,000) one Crore Thirty Lacks at the reduced Prices which we have now reason to expect. Of this Sum above (35,00,000) thirty five Lacks will be supplied from the Sale of Exports and from Certificates. And we have authorized the Presidency of Fort St. George to draw Bills upon us for the purchase of their Investments to the Amount in the present Year of (£150,000) one hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, and in the Year 1788/9 of (£200,000) two hundred thousand Pounds which together with the Sale Amount of such part of the Exports from Europe as will be consigned to Madras will probably be sufficient for all the Commercial purposes of that Settlement without requiring any further assistance from your Government than what may be wanted for the pay of the King's Troops as above stated.

With these Assistances it is therefore probable that our Resources in India could afford the means of purchasing Investments to the Extent required for supplying our Sales in England and of paying regularly the Interest on our Indian Debts, which is stated in the Enclosure No. 8 to Amount to Ct. Rupees (63,70,250) Sixty three Lacks Seventy thousand two hundred and fifty. But we should in this case

be utterly unable to appropriate any considerable part of our Annual Surplus to the discharge of the principal of our Debts in India without a diminution of the funds for our Investments, and consequently of the means by which we should be enabled to Answer the demands of our Creditors in England before the 1st March 1790, The Consequence would be that our Indian Debts would remain a burthen upon our Settlements abroad operating severely both to check the progress of their recovering from the pressure of the late War and to impede their exertions in any future emergency.

46. But on the other hand if they can be transferred to England at a reasonable rate of Exchange, our Revenues freed from so heavy an incumbrance might be applied, to encourage the industry of the Provinces under our Government by promoting their Manufactures, and extending their Commerce while they would at the same time operate in the most beneficial manner to the relief of the Company's Affairs by enabling them so far to increase their Sales as to maintain a successful competition with other Nations in every European Market.

47. It was on this principle that we transmitted to you in September 1785, a Plan for transferring our Indian Debts to England.

48. We are much concerned to find that this Plan has in a great degree failed of success but we are still impressed with the same conviction of the advantage to be derived from a measure of this nature provided that it be carried into effect in such a manner as not to make the compensation to be given by us of more real value to our Creditors, than the actual discharge of their Debts in India.

49. For it is evident, that even if such Payment could now be made by us some considerable diminution would arise to such of our Creditors, as were desirous of remitting to Europe the Amount which they had received. And it is therefore clearly just, that a due consideration should be had of this circumstance, when the Company offer to carry on that operation for them, and to take upon themselves the expense and risk of the Transfer—But as there are so many points in the application of this principle, which depend on local and temporary circumstances of which We have found it impossible for us to acquire a sufficient knowledge and as We repose a full and perfect Confidence, in your Zeal, Abilities and Integrity, We now authorize you to draw Bills upon us, on account of our Indian Debts, including those at Bencoolen for such a Sum as together with those drawn in consequence of the Orders now referred to of the 15th Sept. 1785 shall amount in the whole to Six Crores of Current Rupees: for the Acceptance of which We have obtained the Consent of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a Copy of which is herewith enclosed.

50. The rate of Exchange at which Subscriptions are to be received, is left to your discretion. But the terms must in other respect be regulated by the following Orders, Vizt. That the Bills shall bear date on a day to be fixed by you, on which day Interest is to cease on them in India, and that Interest at such a rate as you find expedient

not exceeding 5 P. Cent P. Annum (the Amount of which must be considered in fixing the rest of the Terms) shall commence in England at one an half year after date: that We shall bind ourselves to discharge our Indian Debts so transferred by half Yearly Payments of not less than (£ 500,000) Five hundred thousand Pounds in each Payment to commence from 1st September 1790, but that in such payments a preference shall be given to those Creditors who have consented to the terms offered in our Letter of 15th September 1785—The Rate of Exchange with the other Settlements and the other measures of detail for carrying these Orders into execution We leave as before for your Adjustment.

51. In assuming the Total of Debts the Current Pagodas in which the Madras Debts are stated have been valued conformable to his Lordships Calculation at (425) four hundred and twenty five Current Rupees Pr. (100) one hundred Pagodas, but this valuation is considerably higher than that preceding the War nor can we admit of the Debts at Madras being converted into Current Rupees in order for their being brought home at so high a Valuation. We have so rated them here only to preserve uniformity in the Comparison, and because we were not willing to undervalue the Amount of the Debts in General.

52. The Relief of [sic] which the completion of this Plan will necessarily afford to your Presidency will We trust enable you to remit by such means as shall appear to you the most eligible, a considerable Supply to Canton to assist our Supra Cargos there in the provision of our annual Investment from China.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

London

31st July 1787.

[Bengal Separate Financial

Dispatches Vol. 17, pp. 576-663]

John Motteux/Nath. Smith/John  
Hunter/John Roberts/Hugh Inglis/  
W. Bensley/John Travers/T.  
Pattle Junr./Thos. Cheap/Jn.  
Townson/Jas. Moffat/W. Elphin-  
stone/W. Devaynes/John Manship

## ENCLOSURE

[Vide para 49] °

*Letter of Authority stating terms for transfer of Indian debts upto Rs. 6 crores to England.*

After our hearty Commendations, Having taken into our consideration your memorial of the Twentieth day of July 1787, transmitting Copy of a Letter proposed to be sent to the Governor General and Council of Bengal approved by the Commissioners for the affairs of India, and requesting your approbation thereof, and authority the

Bills therein mentioned whenever they shall be tendered to you for that purpose.—AND WHEREAS we did by our Warrant bearing date 12th December 1785 authorize you to accept such Bills as should be drawn on you, on Account of your Bonded and other Debts in India to an Amount not exceeding Six hundred Lacks of Current Rupees upon the terms and conditions therein mentioned—AND WHEREAS the Plan for transferring your India Debts to England has in a great degree failed of Success and it has been thought adviseable to alter the Terms and Conditions on which the remaining Bills are to be drawn in consequence of our said Warrant of 12 December 1785. These are therefore by virtue of the powers given unto us by an Act passed on the 20th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty to signify to you our consent, and we do hereby authorize you to accept such Bills as shall be drawn upon you on Account of your Indian Debts (including those at Bencoolen) for such a Sum as together with those already drawn in Consequence of the permission given by us in our said Warrant of the 12th December 1785 shall amount in the whole to Six Crores of Current Rupees, the said Bills to be drawn at such Rate of Exchange and to bear such Date as the Governor General and Council of Bengal in their Discretion shall think proper, on condition that the Interest on the said Bills do cease in India on the Day of their respective dates and that the same shall commence thereon in England, at one and a Half year after Date at a Rate not exceeding five Pounds P. Cent P. Annum.—And on the further Condition that you bind yourselves to discharge your Indian Debts so transferred by half yearly payments, of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pounds in each Payment, to commence from the 1st September 1790 giving a preference in such payments to those Creditors who have consented to the Terms mentioned in our said Warrant of the 12th December 1785.—And for so doing this you shall be your Warrant.

Whitehall Treasury Chambers  
the 24th Day of July 1787.  
W. Pitt/Graham/John Aubrey.

To the Court of Directors  
of the United Company of Merchants  
of England Trading to the East Indies.

Authority to the East India Company to accept Bills on account of their Debts in India to an amount not exceeding six Crores of Current Rupees including those already drawn in consequence of Treasury Warrant dated 12th December 1785.

(Copy) 24th July 1787.

Dup:

Warrant from the Lords of the Treasury,  
empowering the Company to accept Bills.

Pub : Dep :

No. 13.

## LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1787

*Maj.-Gen. William Meadows appointed Governor of Bombay on special pay and allowances.*

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Having taken into our consideration the state of the Presidency of Bombay, we think it necessary to give you the earliest information that we have come to the following resolution, Vizt. Resolved That Major General William Meadows be appointed Governor and Commander in Chief of the Presidency of Bombay and its Dependencies in the room of Rawson Hart Boddam Esqr. whose Commission is to cease and become vacant on the arrival of General Meadows at Bombay, and that the said General Meadows be allowed the Sum of 100,000 (one hundred thousand) Bombay Rupees P. Annum in full for Salary and all Allowances whatever as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bombay, but that this allowance be not considered as a precedent for any Successor, the same being now fixed as a particular mark of the Court's regard for, and high opinion of General Meadows.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

John Motteux/Paul Le Mesurier/  
J. Smith/Jn. Townson/T. Pattle  
Junr./Jas. Moffat/W. Bensley/  
John Roberts\*/W. Devaynes\*/  
John Travers\*/W. Elphinstone\*/  
E. Boehm/Lionel Darell.

London  
the 7th September 1787.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal Public Dept. No. 2.

Received at Fort St. George per Barwell India.

Received Do. at Fort William, 21st May per Hastings Schooner.

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1787

*Members of the Bombay Council.*

**Public Department**

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para 1. Since our letters in this Department of the 31st July last, by the Ranger Packet, we wrote you a short Letter Overland under date of the 7th September.— Duplicates whereof are now forwarded.

Order of signature different in duplicate.

2. By the Ship Earl of Talbot we received your Advices in the Public and Secret Departments under the following dates vizt.

Letter in the Public Department dated 6th March 1787.

Letters in the Secret Department dated 19th Febr'y and 5th March 1787, also

Letter from the Right Hon'ble the Governor General dated 4th March 1787.

3. In our Letter of the 7th September last, we advised you that we had appointed Major General William Medows to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the Presidency of Bombay, and we have since appointed Robert Sparks Esquire to be Second, David Carnegie Esquire to be Third, and George Green Esquire to be Fourth, in the Council at that Presidency.

4. Desirous of shewing the high opinion we entertain of the merits and Services of Andrew Ramsay Esquire who by the late arrangements is deprived of a Seat in Council we have resolved that he be appointed Chief of Surat upon the arrival of Governor Medows at Bombay.

We are,  
Your Affectionate Friends

John Motteux/Nath. Smith/J.  
Manship/John Roberts/W. Bens-  
sley/John Travers/Jn. Townson/  
W. Elphinstone\*/E. Boehm\*/John  
Hunter/Hugh Inglis/J. Smith/Jas.  
Moffatt†/Paul Le Mesurier/T.  
Pattle Junr.

London  
the 21st November 1787.

Exd. J. Lloyd

[Duplicate Exd. J. Farvell]

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal No. 1.

Received at Fort St. George per Barwell Indiaman.

Received from Do. at Fort William, 21st May per Hastings Schooner.

\*Order of signature different in duplicate.

†Missing in duplicate.

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1787

*Requisite details regarding contents of packages of private trade not duly specified by Mr. Wintle.*

**Commercial Department**

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para 1. We wrote you a Letter in this Department under date of the 31st July last by the Ranger Packet, Duplicate of which is inclosed.

2. The Names of the Ships taken up for India and China for the present Season are as follows Vizt.

	Tons		
Deptford . . .	784	Captain John Gerrard	
Dutton . . .	761	James Hunt	
Bellmont . . .	769	Wm. Dick Gamage	)
Asia . . .	816	John Davy Foulkes	)
Duke of Montrose . .	762	Joseph Dorin	) Bombay &
Raymond . . .	793	Henry Smedley	) China .
Barwell . . .	796	Thomas Welladvice	)
. . .	1180	Thomas Price	) Coast & China
Contractor . . .	777	William Mackintosh	)
Albion . . .	961	Thomas Allen	
Earl of Cornwallis .	774	Thomas Hodgson	) Madeira Coast
Carnatic . . .	1169	John Corner	) and China.
Lord Hawkesbury .	803	John Barkley	)
Essex . . .	793	John St rover	) St. Helena, Ben-
General Coote . .	787	James Baldwin	) coolen & China
. . .	1009	Joseph Elliot	) St. Helena &
Phoenix . . .	800	James Rattray	) China.
Lord Macartney . .	796	James Hay.	) Coast and China
Dublin . . .	786	Captain William Smith	) Madeira &
Kent . . .	783	Richard Hardinge	) Bengal
Northumberland .	784	James Rees	) Madeira Coast
			) and Bay
			) Bombay and
			) Bengal
			) Bengal
			) Bombay, Mad-
			) ras Bengal

Manship . . . . .	812	Charles Gregorie	)	
William Pitt . . . . .	798	Charles Mitchell	)	Coast & Bay
[.....] . . . . .	800	William Agnew	)	
[.....] . . . . .	813	Charles Stewart	)	Madeira Bengal
[.....] . . . . .	803	Ralph Dundas	)	& Bencoolen
			)	Madeira and
			)	Bombay
Winterton . . . . .	771	Raymond Snow		Bombay

3. The terms and conditions on which the said Ships are taken up, will appear by their respective Charter parties. Copies of which will be sent in their several Packets.

4. We have contracted with Messrs John Searle & Co. for 736 Pipes of Maderia Wine at £ 17-10 P. Pipe, and in all other respects on the same terms and conditions as the Contract entered into for that Article last year: except that a Freight of £5 P. Pipe is inserted in the Contract for such Wine as may be rejected, Copy of the Contract is now transmitted.

5. Of the above 736 Pipes of Madeira Wine 315 Pipes are for the use of your Presidency, and will be consigned to you by the following Ships Vizt.

158 Pipes on the Phoenix  
157 Do. New Ship, Captain Charles Stewart.

6. There will also be laden 7 Pipes on the Phoenix, and 8 Pipes on the New Ship Captain Charles Stewart—for our servants at Fort Marlborough which must be forwarded thither by the first Conveyance.

7. And there will be laden 3 Pipes on the Ship Earl Cornwallis, and three Pipes on the Carnatic for our Supra Cargos at Canton.

8. We have lately on considering our several Warehouse Keepers reports of Private Trade brought home on the Ship William Pitt, had occasion to notice the very great inattention and remissness of duty of Mr. Wintle, whom you appointed to dispatch that Ship from your Presidency.—In the manifest of Private Trade signed and transmitted by him to our Secretary, he has entered the Marks and numbers only, of what we suppose to be intended for eight Packages belonging to Mr. Stewart, Second Mate, and has totally omitted specifying the quality of the goods or the contents of the Packages. He has also entirely omitted noticing in the said manifest, seven Chests of Indigo shipped on account of Mr. Stewart, although he has particularly signed the Ship's Boatswain's Book to both the above entries, which are made in a very full and satisfactory manner to us, as they contain every degree of Information necessary on the Subject.—This instance of neglect is the more unpardonable as it places us in a very disagreeable predicament having directed the several Commanders and Officers of our Ships to specify in the manifests, the Marks, numbers, contents and quantity of such Contents, of every Package of Priate Trade and every deviation from such directions,

makes the Goods liable to forfeiture, in the present Instance we have been under the necessity of departing from our general practice in consideration of our directions having been complied with as far as respects the Boatswain's Book and being of opinion that as the Entries of the above Goods therein, are signed by Mr. Wintle, it became his duty to see that the manifest corresponded therewith.—We therefore direct that you acquaint Mr. Wintle with our displeasure at his conduct on the above occasion, and that you give particular directions to the Persons you shall employ in the same line of duty in future to be very careful that nothing of the kind may happen again.

London,  
21st November 1787.

Exd. J. Lloyd

[Endorsement]

Dup :

Company's General Letter to  
Bengal. No. 1.

We are,  
Your Affectionate Friends.

John Motteux/Nath. Smith / J.  
Manship/John Roberts/J. Smith/  
W. Bensley / John Travers / E.  
Boehm/John Hunter/Hugh Ing-  
lis/J. Smith/Jas. Moffatt/Paul Le  
Mesurier/T. Pattle Junr.

20

## LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1788

*Equipment for the Diamond Harbour—check on Indian lascars going to Europe on foreign ships—duel between Maj. Browne and Sir John Macpherson and the latter returning to India—supercargoes in China—treaty with France—Gilchrist's Hindustani Dictionary—settlement at Penang—approval to various dealings with Indian powers—check on stationery expenses.*

### Public Department

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para 1. Our last Letter to you in this Department was dated the 21st November 1787, and transmitted by the Ship Barwell, via Fort St. George.

2. It is with infinite satisfaction we learn from your public advices as well as from the information of individuals that advantages of the greatest consequence to our Shipping may be expected to result from the Moorings at Diamond Harbour. We are very desirous of contributing as much as possible to these Moorings being kept up in a proper manner, and with this view have fully complied with your Indent by ordering four Setts of mooring Chains for Diamond Harbour and two setts for Cox's Island, each set for Diamond Harbour consists of :

2 Lengths Mooring Chains, each Chain 25 Fathom the Link 2  
Inches Diameter and 6 Inches long.

6 Shackles about 60 lb. each.

1 Bridle Chain 8 Fathom—the Links 2 Inches by 6 Inches.

2 Shackles about 28 lb. each.

1 Double Mooring Swivel about 6 cwt.

2 Anchors with single Fluke and Iron Stock the Anchor and Stock together to weigh about 40 cwt.

3. The two Sets for Cox's Island consist of the same particulars with this difference only that the mooring chains are to be 30, instead of 25 Fathom each.

4. The following spare Articles will also be sent vizt.

30 Buoy Chains 11 Fathom each to weigh about 5 cwt. each.

12 Shackles about 60 lb. each.

6 Shackles about 28 lb. each.

4 Double Mooring Swivels 6 cwt. each, and

4 Tons of Iron Hoops for the Buoys 18 feet Long  $3\frac{3}{8}$  Inches thick and 2 Inches broad.

5. We have been thus particular respecting the Articles to be consigned you that in case any of them should exceed or fall short of the quantity wanted, or should not be of the sorts which will best answer your purposes the same may be remedied in our future supplies.

6. We are at a loss to form a Judgement in what manner the Moorings are laid down nor does your indent clear up this point which would have been the case had you expressed how many Anchors are wanted for six sets of Chains, from your account of charges in laying the moorings for ten Ships we observe only 12 Anchors charged from this we were led to suppose that the moorings are so laid that three Ships ride by four Anchors four by five Anchors, and so on in nearly that progression, but for fear of our being mistaken we send as before noticed 2 Anchors for each set of moorings.—We must however desire to be fully informed in this respect and that you will forward us a Draught of Diamond Harbour and that Spot near Coxes Islands, where the Ships are intended to be, with the manner in which the Anchors and Chains are placed and a plan and elevation of the Bank Halls [sic] and other buildings erected contiguous to the Harbor.

7. We intend soon to have a meeting with the Owners of the Ships arrived from Bengal on this Subject, and shall acquaint you with the result of this conference.

8. We have not fully complied with your Naval Indent, but the quantity of Stores intended to be sent on the several Ships of this Season are as many as could be conveniently laden consistent with the large Tonnage necessarily reserved for the provisions and Accommodation of a large Body of Troops, the Stores which will be sent you under such circumstances must therefore appear a very ample supply.

9. Ten large Copper Bottoms for Salt Petre Boiler, will make a part of the exports to your Presidency in the Article of 115 Tons Manufactured Copper.

10. You will receive a number in the Packet an Account of the several Articles of Goods and Stores laden on the Ship Lord Hawkesbury for the Residency of Fort Marlborough, the account now transmitted (and which will be continued in future Seasons) is intended for the purpose of enabling you to determine how far, and in what proportions it will be proper to comply with the Indents you may receive from thence at future periods.

11. We have granted permission for an Organ to be shipped on the William Pitt for the Church at Calcutta, particular directions have been given to the Commander to stow it away in such a manner on board his Ship and afterwards in the Craft which may carry it up to Calcutta, as we hope will effectually secure the several parts being delivered in good condition. A person proceeds on the Ship Phoenix to set up the Organ, the Copy of his Petition and the Order of Court, thereon which will make numbers in the Ship William Pitt's Packet will best explain the terms on which he is engaged.

12. Upon the delivery of the above cases at Fort William we recommend that they be placed in such Warehouse where they will not be in danger of being injured by the White Ant or by any other cause whatsoever.

13. It has frequently happened that Ships under foreign but more particularly Danish Colors have brought from different parts of India but more particularly from Bengal a number of Lascars or other native black Seamen to assist in navigating their Ships to Europe, and it has very often happened that these persons after their arrival upon the Continent have been sent over to England and here turned adrift, and left to procure a passage back to their own country in the best manner they were able, at other times these Ships have from contrary winds been obliged to put into the Western Ports of this Kingdom and the Lascars having been encouraged to leave the Ships have travelled up to London and in both instances these poor people have soon been reduced to the greatest distress and had no other means to preserve them from perishing than what they have been able to get by begging in the Streets of this Metropolis. It is then that they apply to the Court of Directors as the only Source from which they can expect relief and protection, humanity and policy induce us to grant their petition to be returned to their native Country, and the Company are by this means put to a considerable expence which ought to be borne by the Owners of the Ships to which they belonged. On the Bengal Ships we now give passage to several Lascars under the beforementioned description. And as it becomes necessary to avoid as much as possible the Company's being put to the like expenses in future we recommend to your consideration to adopt some Plan which may prevent Lascars or other Natives coming to Europe on Foreign Ships without security being given that they shall be returned to India by the Owners of the Ships to which they belong or if returned by us that we shall be indemnified the expence;

but in so doing particular care must be taken that you do not interfere with the Privileges or infringe on the Treaties with foreign nations. You are thus acquainted with the object we have in view, and we must leave to your discretion founded upon local knowledge to adopt such proper measures as may appear most eligible to you upon the occasion.

14. Notwithstanding the precautions we have hitherto taken to procure the return of black servants to India we are very sorry that the same have not been effectual to the end proposed, many of that description still appearing in the Streets of this Metropolis in the utmost distress for the want of means of subsistence here and of procuring a conveyance back to their Native Country.—Instead therefore of the Bond ordered to be taken by the 45 Paragraph of our General Letter of the 12th July 1782, we hereby direct, that before you grant permission to any Black servant to come England on the Company's Ship you cause a Deposit to be made in your Treasury to the amount of £50 by the person soliciting such indulgence, in order to provide not only for the maintenance of such black Servants in Europe, but for the expense of their passage back again; and it must be certified upon the Orders to the Commander for receiving them, that such Deposit has been made and a List of all such Transmitted to us, in the Ships Packet on which they may embark.

15. We are aware that it may not be so easy to render this precaution effectual, in cases where persons may proceed to Europe in Foreign Ships. But in order to obviate the inconvenience as much as possible; we direct that before you permit, the return of any of Our Civil or Military servants by a foreign conveyance, you obtain a declaration from them respecting their intentions of having native servants to accompany them, when the same deposit is to be taken as ordered in the preceding Paragraph.

16. With respect to the return of Persons by Foreign Ships who are not in the Company we hope they will so far listen to the dictates of humanity, as to acquiesce in this regulation—And we direct that you make our sentiments herein as publickly known as possible, that not only our own Servants and those living under our protection may conform to our directions herein, but that it may become the business of the natives themselves to ensure before they embark a certain provision for their maintenance in Europe, and for their return to India.

17. Whatever surplus may remain of such Deposit after defraying the needful expences (unless the same shall be defrayed by the Master) we shall order to be returned to the Persons by whom the same shall be made or to their Attorneys.

18. Having read and deliberately considered a Publication which appeared in the Newspapers entitled "Narrative, relative to the Duel between Sir John Macpherson and Major James Browne authenticated by Lieutenant Colonel A : Murray who attended Sir John Macpherson, and by Major R. C. Roberts who attended Major Browne in the Field" (Copy whereof is enclosed). We came to the following Resolutions, Vizt.

**‘RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** That the Apology required from Sir John Macpherson by Major Browne, shews that the offence taken by Major Browne arose from an Act of Sir John Macpherson in his station of Governor General of Bengal, and not in his private capacity, the apology stating that the Paragraph which gave the offence appeared in the Calcutta Gazette by the authority of the Government, at the head of which he, (Sir John) then was as Governor General of Bengal.

“That the calling upon any person acting in the character of Governor General of Bengal, or Governor of either of the Company’s other Presidencies or as a Counsellor, or in any other Station in respect of any Official act in the way Sir John Macpherson has been called upon, is highly improper, tends to a subversion of due subordination, may be highly injurious to the Company’s Service, and, ought not to be suffered, more especially as the Court is ready at all times to hear the complaints and give redress to their Servants, who either wilfully or by mistake may have been injured by their superiors.—”

19. And we direct that the said Resolutions be made as public as possible at your Presidency and all the Settlements Subordinate hereto.

20. We have permitted Sir John Macpherson Bart to return to his Station in India, and as his Salary ceased from the time of his leaving Bengal with the permission of the Supreme Council and being desirous of testifying our approbation of his conduct, we have resolved that upon his arrival in Bengal he be presented with the Sum of fifty thousand Current Rupees, as a compensation for his loss of time, and in order to defray his charges and expences to the Cape for the restoration of his health.

21. Having thought fit to appoint Messrs Henry Browne, Abraham Roebuck, John Harrison, George Cuming, Alexander Bruce, and Charles Edward Pigou to be a Select Committee of Supra Cargos with full powers to transact the Company’s business in China, we direct that you address the said Committee, whenever our affairs shall render it necessary for you to correspond with our Servants at Canton.

22. We have appointed Messrs Henry Lane, David Lance, Thomas Freement, Thomas Kuyck Van Mierop, William Fitzhugh, Richard Hall, Samuel Peach and Hugh Parkin to be Supra Cargos under our said Select Committee.

23. In our Letter dated the 21st July 1786 we referred Mr. Benjamin Lacam’s Claims, concerning New Harbour in Bengal River to be adjusted by you, we are now to acquaint you that he has entered into Covenants with the Company to abide by your determination which we shall transmit by the Lord Macartney the Ship whereon he has our leave to proceed to Bengal.

24. We have advanced Mr. Lacam the Sum of one thousand pounds which is to be repaid into our Treasury, agreeably to the tenor of his Bond, which will be forwarded to you by the Lord Macartney in order that the amount may be recovered.

25. We have permitted John Maddox to proceed with Mr. Lacam as his Assistant and to remain in Bengal three Years.

26. Mr. Mathew Allen late a Surgeon on the Bengal Establishment, and the Reverend John Christman Diemer late a Missionary in Bengal are permitted to return thither, and remain there two years for the purpose of settling their Affairs in India.

27. It appearing to us that Mr. John Neave who proceeded to his rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency on the Intelligence Packet took with him a European Servant named John Hessin, without our permission for that purpose, and as we highly disapprove such a proceeding in any of our Servants we direct that you reprimand Mr. Neave in our name for his conduct on that Occasion, and that you cause the said John Hessin to be returned to Europe at the expense of Mr. Neave on the first Ship, which shall leave Bengal after the receipt of this Letter—and in order to mark our displeasure at Captain Clifton, for receiving the said Servant on board the Intelligence, without our Order and in breach of his Instructions, we have mulcted him in the Sum of fifty Pounds, and applied the same to the use of the Poplar Hospital<sup>1</sup>.

28. The differences which it was the Object of the Convention at Mauritius to settle are arranged by a Treaty which has been lately concluded between His Majesty, and the Court of France.<sup>2</sup> A Copy of that Treaty together with such directions, as were thought proper to accompany it, have been sent overland by the Secret Committee in a dispatch committed to the charge of Lieutenant Colonel Hartley and a Duplicate of those papers made a number in the Packet which was transmitted by the Ship Barwell via Fort St. George.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department  
of the 17th January 1787

29. (Paras 1 & 3) Need no reply.

30. (4 & 10) We are very glad that you were able to effect the supplies to the other Presidencies for the past Season with facility, and at a reduced exchange. We wish it had been in your power with equal facility to make your remittances to the Supra Cargos at Canton. We very much regret the embarrassments you experienced from the Bill drawn on you by our Supra Cargos for so large a Sum as four Lacks and two thousand Current Rupees, and, as advised in the 43rd Para of your subsequent dispatch of the 19th February last for the further Sum of 2,60,000. We have written to them concerning their having drawn these Bills at the rate of 39 New Dollars P % Current Rupees, notwithstanding they had been apprized that

your remittances to them were at 41 P % issued in Certificates that bore a discount of at least 10 Pr. Cent—We hope our Orders of the 27 March 1787 relative to the whole proceeds of Ophium manufactured in Bengal being solely applied in aid of the China Trade excepting what was to be sent to Bencoolen, will in some measure relieve you from similar embarrassments:— And in order to render that Trade as little burthensome to the Bengal Treasury as possible, we have agreed to send to Canton from Europe by the Ships of the ensuing Season to the amount of about 2,900,000 Spanish Dollars, and have likewise authorized them to draw upon us for whatever they may stand in need of besides.

30. [sic] (11 to 13) Need no reply.

31. [sic] (14, 15) We have persued the proceedings referred to in these Paragraphs, relative to the late Major Tolley's Canal, and approve both of the manner in which you have carried into Execution our Orders of the 11th April 1785, in this respect, and of the measures you adopted for securing payment of the Company's Claims upon the Estate amounting according to a Statement entered on your Consultations of the 1st December, 1786 to Sicca Rs. 1,22,104.

33. (16) Will be replied to in a subsequent Dispatch.

34. (17, 18) Need no reply.

35. (19, 20) Agreeably to your recommendation we hereby empower you to subscribe for 100 Copies of Mr. Gilchrist's Hindostany Dictionary, 60 of which must be forwarded to us as the number shall make their appearance.

36. Your Letter in the Public Department of the 24th January last needs no reply.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department  
of the 19th February 1787

37. A very considerable part of this Letter being in the Commercial Department under which head we ought to have received the communications therein contained, the same will be replied to in our Letter in that Department; and you must be extremely careful in future, to distinguish the subjects under the different heads, causing separate Letters to be written to us in the several Departments according to the example we have given you in our late and present Dispatches.

38. (Par. 1 to 11). Are replied to in the Commercial Department.

39. (12) Needs no reply.

40. (13, 14) We approve of your Proceedings relative to the Intelligence, and Tryal Packets, and of the Allowances granted to the Commanders and Officers—The 5th Paragraph of our Letter in the Public Department of the 31st July last, to which we refer you, strongly pointed out the impropriety of fitting out Packets in India

for the purpose of bringing Advices to England except upon very urgent occasions—We are persuaded that you will not have recourse to such a measure without the most pressing necessity, and when that necessity shall justify the measure, you must be guided by our before-mentioned Orders as to the mode to be followed in appointing the Commanders and Officers.

41. (15 & 22) Are replied to in the Commercial Department.

42. (23) Needs no reply.

43. (24) In reply to your recommendation in favor of the Chaplains on your Establishment we need only to refer you to the 56th and 57th Paragraphs of our Letter of the 27th March last for the addition which we thought proper to authorize you to make to their Stipends.

44. (25 to 32) Are answered in the Commercial Department.

45. (33 & 36) We approve of your Proceedings relative to Mr. Maclary as advised in these Paragraphs, and as he has left India for Europe in a Foreign Ship, we have no further Directions to give you at present upon that Subject.

46. (37 & 40) We likewise approve of your proceeding relative to the Ship under Danish Colors, named first the Juliana Maria, and afterwards the Hornby—You will continue the same line of conduct respecting Ships under Foreign Colors supposed to be commanded and navigated by British Subjects until you receive our further Orders.

47. (41) It does not at present occur to us what further measures can be adopted to prevent British Subjects proceeding to India without the Company's Licence in the manner pointed out by this Para. By the Law, as it now stands, our respective Governors in India are empowered to send all such to Europe—For your further information on this Subject, we refer you to the 182 and following Paragraphs of our Letter in the Public Department of the 31st July 1787.

48. (42.) We shall have no objection to permit the son of Mr. Hardwick to return to Bengal whenever an application shall be made to us for that purpose it appearing that both Father and Son were born in India.

49. (43) Our answer to this Paragraph is included in our Reply to your Letter in the Public Department of the 17th January 1787.

50. (44 & 48) We have perused the proceedings which these Paragraphs relate respecting Fort Marlbro' and approve thereof, and particularly of your having authorized the Deputy Governor and Council of that Settlement to draw Bills upon you for the amount of their Paper Debt to be discharged by Company's Bonds bearing the established Interest of 8 P Cent P Annum thereby transferring the Fort Marlbro' Debt to your own Presidency—We shall take proper notice in our next advices to Bencoolen of the conduct of the Deputy Governor and Council in drawing Bills upon you without your previous authority.

51. (49 & 66) We have taken a cursory view of all your proceedings referred to in these Paragraphs, Concerning the measures you have pursued towards forming a Settlement upon the Island of Penang. We are sensible of the importance of the Objects both Political and Commercial that may be expected from such a Settlement—But, as agreeably to the intimation given in the 62nd Paragraph, we may shortly expect your final determination on the information you had required from Capt. Light,<sup>s</sup> whether it would be prudent to continue or withdraw the Settlement altogether, we shall wait the arrival of that Opinion before we form our Ultimate decision herein. Perhaps that decision may be regulated by the conclusion of some Arrangements, which are now in agitation between Great Britain and Holland. In the mean time the charges of this new Establishment must be confined within the most moderate bounds.

52. (67) The information contained in this Paragraph relative to a reduction in the Discounts on Certificates and Bonds, has afforded us the most sensible pleasure, as it is an earnest that the Company's Affairs under your Administration, are returning to a state of prosperity.

53. The Postscript needs no particular reply.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department  
of the 6th March 1787

54. (Par. 1 and 2) Need no reply.

55. (3) We approve of your recommendation to the President and Council of Fort St. George in favour of the respective Surgeons of the Intelligence and Tryal Packets, which were turned over to the Pilot Service of your Presidency, that they may receive appointments on that Establishment.

56. (4) The subject of this Paragraph tho' necessary for our information, does not require any directions from us to you.

57. (5) The case of Captain Douglas referred to in this Paragraph will likewise be the subject of our future consideration.

58. (6 & 7) You will observe by a preceding Paragraph of this Letter, that we have paid due attention to your Applications on the subject of the mooring Chains &ca for Diamond Point and Cox's Island—The Owners of Shipping object to the largeness of the Sum intended to be charged each Ship for the use of these Moorings and the Banksauls, but we hope to adjust this matter with them before the departure of the Ships of this Season of which you will be duly advised.

59. (8 to 21) These Paragraphs are replied to under the head of Commercial Department under which head they ought to have been addressed to us.

60. (22) Will be replied to hereafter.

61. (23 & 24) Need no reply.

Answer to the Letter in the Public Department

62. Pursuant to the Plan laid down in the 140th Paragraph of our Letter in the Public Department of the 31st July last, we shall now proceed to reply in the Public Department to the several Letters written by you in the Secret Department.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
of the 22nd January 1787

63. (Par. 1) Needs no reply.

64. (2) The subject of this Paragraph will be discussed in our Advices to Fort St. George.

65. (3 & 19) The late Convention between the Courts of Great Britain and France, and the recent Instructions which were given you thereon thro' the Secret Committee, render any particular reply to these Paragraphs unnecessary.

66. (20) We omit for the present making any reply to the claim mentioned in this Paragraph, because from the late transactions which have happened in the United Provinces it is probable some general Arrangement will take place relative to the Interests of Great Britain and Holland in India, and while there is a prospect of so desirable an accommodation, we think it improper to disturb a liberal consideration of the Subject by any particular directions.

67. (21) Needs no reply.

68. The remainder of this Letter is replied to in the Military Department.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
of the 19th February 1787

69. (Para. 1) Needs no reply.

70. (2 & 5) These Paragraphs, for the reasons above stated need no particular reply.

71. (6) We approve of the Supply of Ophium to the Dutch as mentioned in this Paragraph.

72. The remaining part of this Letter is replied to in the Military Department.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret and Political Department  
dated the 19th February 1787

73. (10, 11) Need no reply.

74. (12, 13) We were very much surprized at the information contained in these Paragraphs relative to the Conduct of the Vackeel of the Nabob of Arcot at the Court of Poonah<sup>4</sup>, in pretending to be authorized by his Master to negociate on points respecting Military and to be afforded the Marattas in their late contest with Tippoo Sultaun, and the more so, as the recent dispatches from Madras are entirely silent thereon—We suspect with you, that the Vackeel was never authorized to negociate on such points—But whether he was or was not authorized so to do, we hope his immediate recall was insisted upon—The nature of our connection with the Nabob of Arcot is well understood both by European and Country Powers to be such as ought effectually to preclude him from negotiating Political matter through any medium but our own. Indeed by the 15th Article of the Treaty lately concluded between the Company and him, he is very properly bound, “not to enter into any Political negotiations or controversies with any State or Power without the consent or approbation of the Madras Government.”

75. (14) We have no Idea that the Commotions which have lately happened in Berar, in consequence of a dispute between the Mahomedans and Hindoos can have the remotest tendency to affect the Peace of India, more especially as you have informed us that the transaction cannot have any influence in the general politics of the parties concerned in it.

76. (15,16) We have perused the Papers referred to in these Paragraphs, and entirely approve of the instructions given to Captain Kirkpatrick your Resident with Madajee Scindia, on the Paper of Memoranda<sup>5</sup>, which Lieutenant Anderson, his predecessor received from Scindia before he quitted that Residency.

77. (17,18) We likewise, for the reasons you have stated approve of the Instructions given to Colonel Harper, your Resident at the Vizier's Court, relative to an expected application from His Excellency to Madajee Scindia regarding the Claim of the Mother of Sujah Dowlah for the Plunder of the House of Meer Jaffier at Delhi.

78. (33) Needs no reply.

79. (34) You acted very proper in declining to listen to the communications of the Sister of the late Nudjif Cawn<sup>6</sup>, or taking any concern in her politics.

80. (37) We approve of your having reduced the Corps under the command of Captains Macleod and Sloper at Lucknow.

81. (38 & 40) We shall reserve such observations as we may have occasion to make on the Affairs of Oude and Furruckabad for our reply to your Advices containing the final Arrangements that have been adopted respecting those Countries.

82. (41) Needs no reply.

83. (42) We cannot too highly commend your conduct as set forth in this Paragraph, in resisting all applications from the Seiks and others for Military assistance<sup>7</sup> firmly persuaded as we are, that to

protect our own Territories, and the Territories of those to whom we are closely allied, without taking part in the contentions of others which do not affect either ourselves or our Allies, is, on every account, the soundest Policy that can be adopted.

84. (43) Needs no reply.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret Department  
of the 5th March, 1787

85. (Par : 1) Needs no reply.

86. (2 & 6) For the reasons before mentioned, it is unnecessary for us to make any particular reply to these Paragraphs.

87. (7) We approve of the application you have made to the Director and Council at Chinsurah relative to some obstructions that had been made to the proceedings of the Dewannee Adaulut at Chuprah.

88. The remaining part of this Letter is replied to in the *Military Department*.

Answer to the Letter in the Secret and Political Department  
dated 5th March 1787

89. (Par. 1) Needs no reply.

90. (2, 3) You will learn our Opinion of the late Treaties concluded with the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore in our Advices to the Madras Government—Copies of which will be transmitted to you as usual. We cannot however omit upon the present occasion expressing our entire approbation of the sentiments contained in Lord Cornwallis's Minute of the 26th February 1787, respecting the right of succession to the Rajahship of Tanjore<sup>8</sup>.

91. (8) Needs no reply.

92. (9, 10) Upon the refusal of the Nabob Vizier to admit the Arrears of pension due to Meer Mahomed Hussein, you acted very properly in carrying the sum advanced to the Meer on his proceeding to Hyderabad to the account of the Company. In our Letter of 27th March 1787 we gave our sentiments respecting the appointment of Meer Mahomed Hussein to reside at Hyderabad. If after duly considering thereof, you shall determine on the expediency of continuing the Meer in that Situation, we shall not object to the increase you have thought proper to make in his allowances—But we hope to be relieved from this expence, whenever his Services at the Court of the Nizam, can with propriety be dispensed with.

93. (11) We cannot at present form any Opinion of the advantage of appropriating to the Company's Use the Ophium manufactured in the zemindarry of Benares.—We shall be better able to decide herein after the past year's experiment. We however give you due credit for turning your thoughts to a Subject which you had reason to suppose might be beneficial to the Interests of your employers.

## 94. (12) Needs no reply.

95. (13) We are extremely pleased with the information contained in this Paragraph of their [sic] being no reason to apprehend, that the harmony subsisting between the Company and the Native Powers, will be interrupted and that there is every appearance at present of it's long continuance.

96. On the 15th November, we received your overland Dispatch of the 17th May last, which principally relates to Lord Cornwallis's late Arrangements with Hyder Beg Cawn, the Minister of the Nabob of Oude, but before we give our final Opinion thereon we shall wait the Arrival of the Ravensworth, by which conveyance you have promised to transmit to us the explanations that may be necessary to enable us to form that Opinion.

97. We are very much pleased with Lord Cornwallis's intention of visiting the Military Stations of the Army within and without the Provinces, as it will enable His Lordship to propose such Regulations as will no doubt be of great utility to the Service.

98. With respect to your Resolution to place the Resident at Benares, under the Orders of the Board of Revenue, we shall be better able to form an Opinion thereon, after perusing your Proceedings at large upon the Subject which we expect to receive by the Ravensworth.

99. We have read with Great attention the several Letters addressed to us from Lord Cornwallis but as they principally relate to subjects which have been already noticed under their respective heads it is unnecessary to make any particular reply thereto. We are duly sensible however of His Lordship's attention to every branch of the Company's Affairs, and we are persuaded that we shall derive much advantage from His Lordship's wise and upright administration during his continuance in his present important Office.

100. The following Paragraphs in the Foregoing Letters not having been laid before us we must refer you to the Correspondence of the Secret Committee for such observations as they have thought necessary to make thereon.

Para 1 to 9—19 to 32—35 & 36 of the Secret Political Letter 19th Feby. 1787 Paragraphs 4 to 7 of Do. 5th March.

101. In our Letter of the 27th March 1787, we were led to make some strictures upon the great increase of the expenditure in Stationary at your Presidency and gave directions for your adopting such means as upon a mature consideration of the matter might be conceived best calculated to prevent all superfluity in the Demands and appropriation of this Article in future.

102. We trust that our directions on this head have been duly attended to, and hope to find that under the Regulations we presume to have been established, the Quantities consigned to your Presidency last Season were fully adequate to the necessary Supply to each Department for one year,

103. With a view however of providing for casual Deficiencies, we have been induced to send a greater supply this Season than last, and trust that with the additional quantity a Preservation may be made, sufficient to obviate the necessity of making any purchase in India to answer such Deficiencies.

104. We have been much surprized to hear of so great a proportion of the Paper shipped for your Presidency in the Seasons 1784/5 and 1785/6 being found damaged. From whence this arises we are at present under some difficulty of ascertaining but so considerable is the loss resulting to the Company, that we shall endeavor to find out some expedient for preventing the like in future.

105. The Stationary consigned to your Presidency this Season is shipped on board the Manship Kent and Triton, the particulars whereof are stated in the said Ships' Invoices.

106. In confidence of your having established the most effectual Regulations for preventing all future ground of complaint, in respect to your expenditure in this Article, we have only to add our desire, that you will not omit to enforce a due observance of them.

107. Mr. John Robertson who in the season of 1785 obtained our leave to proceed to Bengal under Free Mariners Indentures, and came to England third Mate of the Swallow Packet is allowed to return to Bengal as a Free Mariner under the Original permission granted him.

108. Having taken into consideration the application of several of our Civil Servants who have returned from Bengal to be allowed the Pensions allotted to their respective ranks; we came to the following Resolutions vizt.

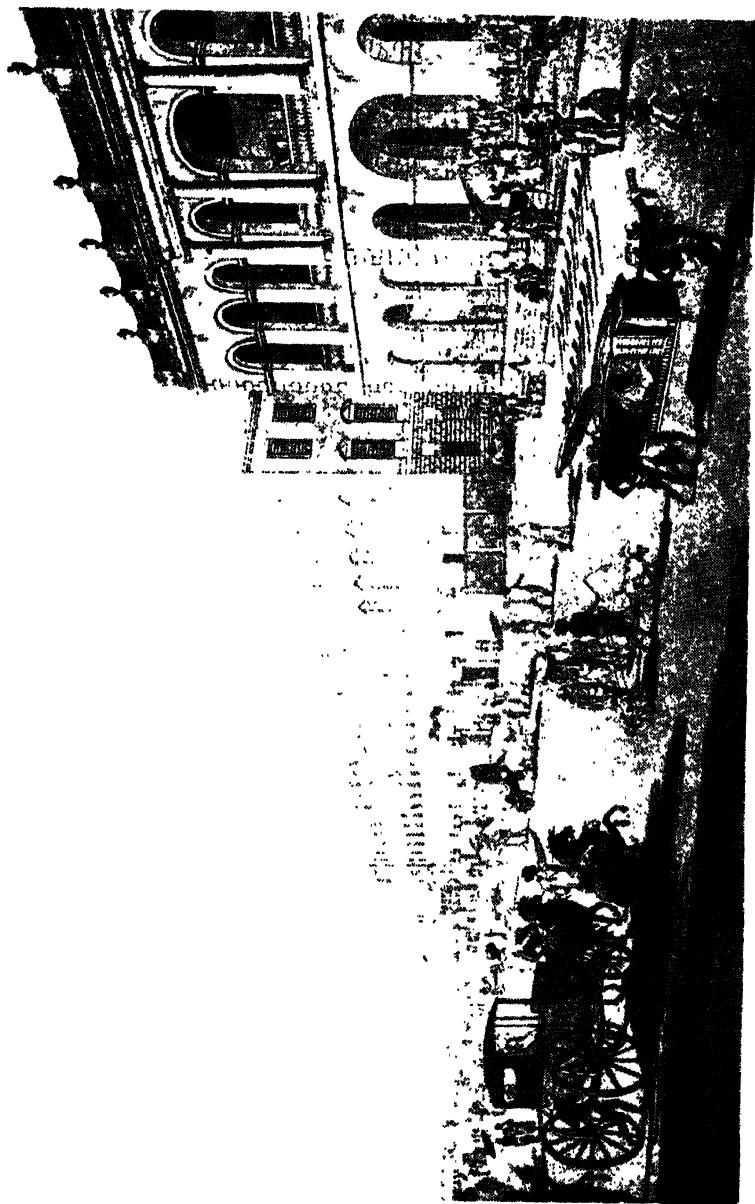
“RESOLVED that no Civil Servant is entitled to the allowances mentioned in the Court's Orders to Bengal of the 21st September 1785 and 27th March 1787, who came home either on account of health or of private Affairs.

That those Pensions be confined to such Persons only, as were actually deprived of their Situations and employments, or who were out of employment in consequence of the retrenchments made in the Bengal Establishment.

That to entitle any person to receive such Pensions, he must give satisfactory Proof to the Court as to the Amount of his fortune at the time of his leaving Bengal, in which case, agreeably to the Court's before mentioned Orders, he will be entitled to receive as follows vizt.

A Senior Merchant whose fortune at the time aforesaid was not equal to £ 10,000, as much as with the Interest of his own money, shall yield him an Annuity of £ 400 Pr. Annum—A Junior Merchant in like manner £ 300 Pr. Annum A Factor or Writer £ 200 P Annum.”





Writers' Building and the Old Court House, Calcutta, 1786

109. And we direct that you cause the foregoing Resolutions to be published for the information of our Servants at your Presidency.

110. Messrs William Webber, Stephen Bayard and Peter Touchat have obtained our permission to return to their rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency.

111. We shall forward to you the Bonds entered into by the above Persons for the repayment to the Company of any Allowances which may have been paid to their Agents in Bengal, during the time of their absence, contrary to the Orders on that subject contained in our Letters of the 21st September 1785 and 27 March 1787.

112. We enclose you a Letter from Sir<sup>1</sup> Elijah Impey,\* acquainting us that he has been permitted by his Majesty to resign his Office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William. As the Letter from Lord Sydney one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, signifying His Majesty's acceptance of such Resignation is dated the 1st of November last, Sir Elijah Impey's Salary is to cease from that time.

113. Lieutenant William Duff Dunbar having represented to us that the Arrears of Pay and Allowances due to him as a Lieutenant on the Fort St. George Establishment have been transferred to the Bengal Bond Debt, and requested that the amount may be remitted to him by Bills of Exchange on this Company. We have agreed to comply with his request, and accordingly direct that Bills for the amount thereof be granted payable to him on the same terms as you shall grant Bills of Exchange for the liquidation of the Company's Indian Bond Debts in consequence of our Orders of the 31st July 1787.

114. Our Secret Committee having in their Letter of the 3rd November last given directions for suspending the levying of the Government Customs generally we think it necessary to inform you that it was not intended to include therein the Duties on Salt collected as they now are by the Comptroller.—You will therefore continue those Duties upon their present footing.

115. By desisting from levying the Government Customs, we are aware that the Trade of Calcutta may suffer materially by continuing to demand the Company's Customs on the Inland Importation of Merchandize at that Port.—We therefore authorize you, if on mature consideration you shall think it proper, to suspend the Collection of the Company's Duties on the Inland Trade of Calcutta; with respect to the Duties on the Foreign Imports. We do not at present see any objection to their continuance, but if it shall appear that the Collections of these Duties is detrimental to the Commerce of Calcutta, we leave it discretionary with you either to reduce or abolish them for the present.

116. As the Collection of Duties at the several Custom Houses will now cease, you will of course discontinue the Establishments thereat,

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 33, 1787-8, pp. 115-6.

by which means a reduction of near Two Lacs of Sicca Rupees will take place in the charges of the Revenue Department.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

London

The 28th March 1788

John Motteux/Nath: Smith/John  
Manship/Edm. Boehm/Tho Cheap/  
J. Smith/W. Bensley/Hugh Ing-  
lis/T.Pattle Junr./Thos. Fitzhugh/  
Paul Le Mesurier\*/Step. Lushing-  
ton\*/John Travers\*/Jn. Townson.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal Received Per Triton 23d July  
No. 1

Enclosure No. I

[Vide Para 11]

To the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the United East India  
Company.

The Petition of John Welsh

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner understands that the Honorable Court have agreed to send an Organ &ca as a Present to the New Church at Calcutta on one of the Ships of this Season.

That your Petitioner humbly conceives that it is indispensibly necessary that some person well acquainted with the Nature of that Instrument and capable of taking it to Pieces and putting it up again should accompany it to Bengal.

That your Petitioner has been regularly bred an Organist and is Master of his Profession as will appear to your Honors from the accompanying Testimonial.

He humbly therefore entreats your permission to proceed to his profession and engages to give his best services in apprehending to the packing up of the Organ and erecting in the Church at Calcutta.

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray.

John Welsh

January 1788.

We the undersigned do hereby certify that Mr. John Welsh is duly and fully qualified as an Organist Witness our Hands at London this

\*Order of signatures different in letter received per Triton.

seventeenth day of December one thousand Seven hundred and eighty .seven.

J. S. Schrieter  
Dominice Corrs  
Muzio Clementi

At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday the 23rd January 1788.

Ordered that Mr. John Welsh be permitted to proceed to Bengal to practice there in his Profession as a Musician and that he be allowed the Sum of £ 50 on condition of his attending to the proper packing up the Organ intended for the Church at Calcutta and to seeing the same put up in the Church.

(Copy)

Petition of Mr. John Welsh who proceeds to set up an Organ in the Church of Calcutta with the Order of the Court of Directors thereon the 23 January 1788.

No. 9

#### Enclosure No. II

[Vide Para 18]

Dated 12th September, 1787

*Narrative of the duel between Sir John Macpherson and Maj. James Browne.*

London 12th September 1787

#### Narrative

Relative to a Duel between Sir John Macpherson and Major James Browne authenticated by Lieutenant Colonel A. Murray who attended Sir John Macpherson, and by Major R. E. Roberts who attended Major Browne in the Field.

On Saturday the 8th Instant Major Roberts left the following note for Sir John Macpherson at the Royal Hotel.

"Major Roberts did himself the honor to wait on Sir John Macpherson wishing to communicate a circumstance of business with him. If Sir John will be so obliging as to intimate at what time he may be spoken to, Major Roberts will call upon him. A Servant shall attend for an answer this evening."

Sir John wrote a Card in answer, informing the Major, that he would see him the next morning at breakfast at Nine o Clock.

On the 9th about the Hour appointed, Major Roberts waited on Sir John Macpherson and delivered to him a Letter from Major Browne in these words.

Harley Street September 8th 1787.

"Sir

The Publication made by Your authority in the Calcutta Gazette of May 12th 1785, being calculated to convey an imputation of the most criminal kind on my character. I must in Justice to my Honour so undeservedly injured insist on receiving an apology as publick, as the Injury.

The Gentleman who delivers this is my friend and will explain my sentiments at large.

I am, Sir

.. Your Obedient Servant  
(Signed) James Browne"

"Sir John Macpherson Bart."

The following is a Copy of the Publication in the Bengal Gazette alluded to in Major Browne's Letter, which though not delivered by Sir John, till after the Duel was over, is inserted in this place for the sake of connection.

"We have Authority to inform the Publick that on the 7th of this month the Governor General received from the Emperor Shah Allum and Maha Rajah Madajee Scindia an Official and Solemn disavowal under their respective Seals of demands which were transmitted to them on Mr. Macpherson's accession to the Government, for the former Tribute from Bengal."

"The demand for the tribute were transmitted through Major Browne and made immediately upon his recall from the Court of Shah Allum but without any communication of the Subject to Mr. Anderson".

"Mr. Anderson was immediately instructed to inform Scindia that his interference in such demands would be considered in the light of direct Hostility, and a breach of our Treaty with the Maharattas and Shah Allum was to be informed, that the Justice of the English to his Illustrious House could never admit the interference on recommendation of other powers and could alone flow from their voluntary Liberality."

"A disavowal of claims advanced unjustly and disrespectfully, was insisted upon and we are authorized to declare that Mr. Anderson's conduct in obtaining that disavowal was open and decided, and highly honourable to him as a publick minister. He acted in conformity to the orders of Government even before he received them. He founded his remonstrances on a short Letter which he had received from the Governor General and upon circumstances which passed in the

presence of Scindia, at Shaw Allum's Durbar as Major Browne was taking his leave."

"The effects which Mr. Anderson's remonstrance produced are very satisfactory and creditable to Government and such explanations have followed on the part of Scindia as must eventually strengthen our alliance with the Mahrattas, expose the designs of secret Enemies and secure the general tranquillity of India."

When Major Roberts delivered Major Browne's Letter of the 8th to Sir John Macpherson, he shewed him the form of the Apology required by Major Browne from Sir John, but he did not then leave it, as he had not directions for that purpose.

Sir John rejected the proposition and desired Major Roberts to acquaint Major Browne that he Sir John would not make any apology to an individual for any part of his publick conduct, and he wrote to Major Browne to the same purpose as follows.

"Royal Hotel Pall Mall  
9th September 1787.

"Sir

Major Roberts has delivered to me your Letter of the 8th of September this morning, I cannot make any apology to an Individual for my conduct as Governor General of Bengal be the consequences to myself personally what they may; for I am not conscious of having acted towards any of the Company's Servants illeberally [sic] or unjustly during my Administration in India. In your particular Case I acted with moderation, as circumstances appear to me at the time; and I left it to the Court of Directors to Judge for themselves relative to Your defence, without making a remark upon it.

I am Sir

Your most humble Servant  
(Signed) John Macpherson"

On the 10th between three and four in the afternoon Major Roberts brought the following Letter from Major Browne in reply to Sir John's of the 9th having not found Sir John at home when he called in the forenoon.

"Harley Street September 9th 1787

"Sir,

I have received the Letter you wrote me this afternoon.

I must remind you Sir that whatever Sentiments I may entertain of Your conduct towards me in what relates to Your representations to the Court of Directors they form no part of the grounds on which I demanded an apology. As I am actuated by a just regard to my own honour, not by a spirit of indictive resentment.—I specifically confined my demand to what concerned the Gazette publication of May 12th 1785 a publication by no means dictated by the necessary

duty of your Office, and which were I capable of allowing to pass unnoticed.—I should tacitly admit as facts against my own character, what I perfectly know to be groundless I cannot therefore withdraw my first requisition with which if you refuse compliance Major Roberts will inform you of my determination.

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant  
(Signed) James Browne

“Sir John Macpherson Bart.”

At the same time Major Roberts delivered to Sir John Macpherson the form of Apology in these terms.

“The Apology which I expect Sir John Macpherson to make must be inserted in the Morning Herald in the following words.

A Paragraph having appeared in the Calcutta Gazette of May 12th 1785 by the Authority of the Government, at the head of which I then was as Governor General of Bengal which Paragraph has been thought to convey a reflection on the character of Major James Browne, as if he had while acting as Resident at the Court of Delhi excited the King Shah Allum to make a demand of the Tribute of Bengal from the Company, and Major Browne having in vindication of his own character called on me publicly to clear him of a reflection so injurious to his reputation, both as a public Servant, and as a man. I do hereby declare that I never intended to cast any such reflection on Major Browne's Character, and that I am convinced he is incapable of acting in a manner so inconsistent with his duty.

(Signed) James Browne”

Sir John Macpherson then dictated the following Message, which was taken down in writing by Major Roberts, to be delivered to Major Browne.

“September 10th 1787.

“Sir John Macpherson authorizes Major Roberts to acquaint Major Browne, in reply to his Letter of Yesterday's date which he has just received, that he does not at this moment clearly recollect the Paragraph alluded to, but that if it was in the name or by the authority of Government, he cannot possibly think of making any apology to an individual for that or any public Act of his Administration. And that if Major Browne therefore insists on private satisfaction he (Sir John) is ready to give it at any time or place Mr. Browne may name.”

When Sir John had delivered this Message Major Roberts notified him that he had instructions from Major Browne to demand private satisfaction leaving the time and place to Sir John.

Sir John observed, that the sooner such matters were settled better, and that he was ready. He asked where Major Browne lived? Major Roberts answered in Harley Street No. 20 but “t” he lived? at he was

to dine out" Sir John said he would send a friend to receive his Commands.

Accordingly Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Murray called on Major Browne at half past ten o Clock at Night, and as he was not at home, left a Card informing the Major that he called upon him with a message from Sir John Macpherson, and that he Colonel Murray would wait on Major Browne the next morning at six o Clock, he did so and informed the Major that he waited upon him by desire of Sir John Macpherson to repeat a message which he had sent to Major Browne the day before by Major Roberts.

Lieutenant Colonel Murray then read to Major Browne the Message (Vide the message as written down by Major Roberts) which Major Browne acknowledged to have [sic] Colonel Murray then told Major Browne that Sir John Macpherson adhered to the Sentiments expressed in that message and had authorize[d] Colonel Murray to tell Major Browne that if he still wished to require private satisfaction for a transaction which Sir John was supposed to have authorized in his capacity as Governor General, he was ready to meet him, and had sent the Colonel to know his pleasure respecting the time and place, Major Browne observed that he was not Singular in his opinion that the Paragraph in the Gazette, which he complained of conveyed a severe reflection upon his conduct; that every Person who read it concurred in that opinion, and that if Sir John would not contradict it he Major Browne would certainly expect private satisfaction. Colonel Murray answered that the intention of his visit to the Major was to be informed of the time and place at which he desired to meet Sir John Macpherson. Major Browne replied that he had not received Colonel's Murrays Card till half past three o Clock in the morning and that as Major Roberts was not then at home and it was uncertain when he would return the Major could not well fix a time for meeting Sir John. Colonel Murray then told Major Browne that he would venture to engage for Sir John he would remain at home till 12 o Clock to receive Major Browne's final Commands. About 20 minutes past 10 o Clock Major Roberts called at the Royal Hotel and informed Colonel Murray that Major Browne would meet Sir John at Hyde Park at 11 o Clock. The parties met near Grosvenor Gate at the time appointed and walked to the place where they fought. Colonel Murray then paced the distance about ten Yards, at which the parties stood. The Pistols were loaded on the ground and it was agreed that Sir John Macpherson and Major Browne should fire at the same time their first Pistols were discharged nearly at the same instant—Sir John received Major Browne's second fire but his own Pistol missed fire. Colonel Murray then requested Major Roberts would ask his friend Major Browne if he was satisfied. He did so. And Major Browne said, that he was satisfied that Sir John had behaved with great Gallantry, and much like a man of Honor, and that after what had passed, he would wave the public apology he had before demanded, and be satisfied, if Sir John would say before Major Roberts and Colonel Murray, that the Paragraph in the Calcutta Gazette was not meant by Sir John to convey any reflection on Major Browne, Sir John said that he had been sufficiently

explicit on that Subject, that he saw no grounds for an apology, that the Paragraph which had given offence was a mere recital of facts, that he had come there to give Major Browne satisfaction; and that he was ready to go on till he should be satisfied.

The Pistols were in consequence reloaded, and a third Shot exchanged, on which Major Browne declared, that as he had come there on a point of honor only, not considering the business requisite to be carried to the last extremity he was now satisfied and Sir John and he quitting their ground and coming up to each other. Sir John said that he had now no hesitation to tell Major Browne, that his Sir John's conduct had not been at all influenced by personal indisposition towards him, that he did not perfectly remember the Paragraph, but that it was as far as his memory served him to recollect it, a mere Statement of facts on which he had not made any Comments. Major Browne said, he could furnish him with the Paragraph, and it was delivered to Sir John, who put it into his Pocket without reading it. The Parties then desired Lieutenant Colonel Murray and Major Roberts to draw up an Account of the Circumstances which had occurred, and parted with salutations of Civility.

It appeared that two of the three Balls fired by Major Browne had passed through the Shirts of Sir John's Coat, and the third Colonel Murray has been informed was afterwards found in the Pocket of Sir John's Coat where it had lodged in his Pocket Book.

R. E. Roberts  
Alexr. Murray

Copy of the Narrative relative to the Duel between Sir Jon. Macpherson and Major Jas. Brown.

No. 10.

## LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1788

*Accounting of water and provisions in ships—investments for ensuing seasons at cheaper rates—deputation of Barlow for enquiry into commerce with Oudh—woollen cloth for Bengal market—detailed orders for different kinds of cloth to be sent to England—indigo trade to be laid open for next three years—price of saltpetre reduced—account of sale of Bengal goods in England.*

Commercial Department

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Para. 1. We wrote to you last in this Department by the Ship Barwell, via Fort St. George under date of the 21st November 1787.

2. In order to remove every plea for the Commanders of the Company's Freight Shipped deviating from their Instructions, by putting into Ports prohibited therein, on account of a deficiency of Water, and Provisions we have given them directions to Ship at the Port where they shall take in their loading for Europe such a sufficient Stock of those Articles as with the addition of the water, and fresh Provisions they usually procure at St. Helena, will fully last them to England. And that we may be enabled to judge whether this order is duly complied with, we have further directed, that such our Commanders as may be dispatched from your Presidency, do at that period of time nearest their dispatch, for England, deliver to the person employed to dispatch the Ships, an account of the quantity of Water, and of every species of Provisions on board, with the time it is calculated to serve, reckoning in the Calculation the Consumption of the Passengers, as well as the Ship's Company, which account is to be dated at the time of delivery, and signed by the Commander for the time being.

3. We apprise you of this regulation, in order that Accounts may be received from the respective Commanders, and transmitted to England by the ships to which they shall severally relate].

4. The Owners of the Kent having made a demand on us for Victualling the Military sent from England on the Ship, during her stay at Rio de Janeiro outward bound, also from the Ship's arrival at Bombay till the delivery of the Troops at Madras likewise a further demand for Victualling the Troops from Madras to Bengal, and having in support of the first demand Vizt. that for Victualling at Rio de Janeiro and from Bombay to Madras produced a Bill amounting to Arcot Rupees 9756, which by a Memorandum at the foot thereof, dated the 1st April 1783 and signed by Mr. Auriol your Secretary, was referred to us—we have had recourse to your Consultations of that date, and find that Captain Stoakes presented two Letters, to your Board, the first enclosing two accounts for Troops brought from England to Madras, one for himself, and the other for his Owners, Vizt. For the Officers Arcot Rupees 1548—For the Men Arcot Rupees 9756; the other Letter enclosing his Accounts for the Officers and Soldiers Passage from Madras to Bengal, charged at the same rates as paid to Captain Larkins, on reading these Letters you order that they should be referred to us. In a Subsequent part of the Consultation of the same date the first Letter from Captain Stoakes, with the two Accounts for the Troops from England to Madras repeated, and the following Observation and order are subjoined, Vizt.

“This Charge being for part of the Bengal Detachment, which was divided on his Ship and Captain Larkins's to be returned here, and being both charged at the same rate as paid for the Passage of the Detachment down to the Coast; ordered that the Bill be discharged.”

5. From the above Entries on your Consultations, we conclude that you discharged all the three bills that Captain Stoakes presented to you, notwithstanding the reference of all the Bills to us, as ordered

on the first reading of his Letters, you having on the second of his first Letter enclosing his Bills for the Troops from England which Letter is repeated at length on your Consultations, ordered the Bill to be discharged, though the reason given does not at all apply to the Troops from England but to those carried from Madras to your Presidency. And with respect to the latter, we have no doubt but you paid Captain Stoake's Bill on their Account, at the same rate as Captn. Larkins was paid, though neither of the Payments appears on any of the Books of Accounts received from you.

6. These irregularities cause us a great deal of Trouble in Settling our Accounts with the Owners of the Ships, which would be easily removed, if you were to take receipts in Triplicate, for all payments whatever made to the Commanders, whether upon their own, or their Owner's Account, and transmit us two of the Receipts one by the Ship, on account of which the payment may be made, and the other by the first Ship dispatched after her. We do therefore direct, that this rule be in future invariably observed, and with respect to the claim of the Owners of the Kent we direct that you send us, by the first Ship, which shall sail after your receipt of this Letter, attested Copies of the receipts given by Captain Stoakes for the several Sums paid to him at your Presidency.

7. In the Letter from the Board of Trade, of the 14th October 1783, mention is made of disputes having arisen between the Import Warehousekeeper and Captain Peter Stoakes, respecting his signing the account deficiency of his Ship the Kent, which Captain Stoakes departing from the Settlement to proceed on his Voyage to China, could not be adjusted, and the Board refer us to the correspondence which passed between the Warehousekeeper and Captain Stoakes on the subject. Upon reference to this Correspondence, we observe that Captain Stoakes's reason for not signing the Account of deficiency was that he was not suffered to make such objections thereto as he thought necessary, particularly in respect to the Copper having been a long time kept in the square of the Fort, before it was weighed off. Having observed on a great number of occasions, that the Commanders have stated a similar objection to their owners being liable to pay for a deficiency of Copper we do direct, that the Copper by each Ship be in future weighed immediately on its being landed, and that the Commander, or some other Person, appointed by him on the part of the Owners, be required to attend the weighing, and if any deficiency in weight should appear, that an account thereof be made out as usual, and tendered to the Commander for his signature, but that he be permitted to make such reasonable objections to the Account as he may think proper in which case, we direct, that the Import Warehousekeeper do certify on the face of the account, whether such objections are well founded or not, and do add such remarks thereon as shall enable us to determine whether the deficiencies should in justice be charged to the Owners or not.

Answer to such parts of the Letter in the Public Department of the 19th February 1787, as come under the Commercial Department

8. (Para 1 & 4) Need no reply.

9. (5 & 6) We have perused with great attention the Governor General's Minute of the 22nd of January 1787, and your subsequent Resolutions of the 29th founded thereon, relative to the mode to be adopted for the provision of an Investment for 1787/8. The reasons urged by Lord Cornwallis is his said Minute for the deviation which he deemed it necessary to make from the letter of our Orders of the 12th April 1786, Pr. Swallow, are in general very satisfactory to us. And as the provision of the Investment in all practicable Instances by Agency, is merely an experiment, we shall wait the result thereof before we give any further directions upon the subject. We admit that under the restrictions you have adopted it appears the only likely mode of obtaining a knowledge of the real cost of the Goods, from the want of which we are convinced with his Lordship that many abuses, have existed, and that the consequences thereof have proved highly detrimental to the Company's Affairs, and we are much pleased with the great attention His Lordship appears to be shewn herein to our commercial concerns. The Prospects held out to us in the 8th Paragraph of your subsequent Letter of the 6th March 1787, that the whole of the Investment for the ensuing Season would be procured at a cheaper rate than any we have received of late years, is highly satisfactory to us.

10. (7 & 11) We have already approved of the disposition of the ship consigned to your Presidency for which you were not able to procure Cargo.

11. (15) We approve of your having indulged the Captain and Officers of the Walpole and Queen (whose destinations you were obliged to alter) with liberty to send home Goods, equal to their respective privileges in one of the Company's Ships. For our further sentiment herein, we refer you to the 12th Paragraph of our Letter in this Department of the 31st July 1787.

12. (16 & 21) The subject of these Paragraphs will be replied to hereafter.

13. (22) We approve of the appointments made in this Paragraph.

14. (25 & 32) We have given the utmost attention to your Proceedings had [sic] in consequence of the Secret Orders of the 12th April 1786, relative to the frauds and abuses which we suspect to have been so long practised in the Provision of the Company's Investment and having traced those Proceedings step by step, from the beginning to your last advices upon this subject of the 6th March 1787 we hereby declare our entire satisfaction with the judicious, liberal, and firm manner in which Lord Cornwallis had hitherto conducted himself in the execution of those important Orders. It is unnecessary for us to say more in the present Stage of the Business, of the further progress of which we shall no doubt be from time to time acquainted.

15. We have read with great pleasure Lord Cornwallis's testimony to the Zeal and abilities which have been manifested upon this occasion by your present Advocate General Mr. Davis, and we trust to his continuing in the same line of meritorious conduct until

this enquiry, which in it's consequence is of so much importance to the future prosperity of the Company's Commercial Affairs, shall be brought to a final issue.

16. The original Covenants desired to be sent by Lord Cornwallis in his Letter to the Secret Committee of the 23rd January 1787, were transmitted in the Minerva's Packet—Our Solicitor has no observations to make on the Bills which you have already filed, Copies of which were received by the Earl of Oxford.

Answer to such parts of the Letter in the Public Department of the 6th March 1787 as come under the Commercial Department

17. (Para. 8) We have already expressed our satisfaction at the prospect held out in this Paragraph, that the whole of the Investment for the ensuing Season will be laid in at a cheaper Rate than any we have received of late Years.

18. (9) We have referred to the Proceedings mentioned in this Paragraph, and approve of the alterations that have taken place in the Allotment of the Silk Investment.

19. (10 & 13) Having perused your Proceedings referred to in these Paragraphs, relative to the provision of Oude Cloths, we highly approve of the measure you adopted previous to advertizing for the receipt of Proposal of deputing Mr. Barlow to the spot for the purposes mentioned in his Instructions which we also approve. We expect soon to be advised of the result of this deputation. We have also paid due attention to the 5th Paragraph of Lord Cornwallis's Letter to us upon that subject of the 4th March 1787—Mr. Barlow's report will enable us to form a more adequate Judgement thereon than we are able to form at present for want of the information which it was the object of the late Deputation to procure—We can only commend the attention you have hitherto paid to our Orders in this respect.

20. (14 & 15) We have read the Letter and Proceedings to which these Paragraphs relate, respecting the Proposals of Mr. Lyon Prager, the Company's Inspector and Purchaser of Drugs at your Presidency, and see no reason to depart in general from the restrictions respecting him mentioned in the 14th Paragraph of our Commercial Letter of the 31st of July last—But as you have agreed to appropriate one Lack of Rupees to the purchase of Drugs (Indigo excepted) whenever that amount can be invested with certain advantage to the Company, and which appropriation might probably be encreased to two, we shall hereafter be enabled to judge how for Mr Prager will have merited the confidence you have thus placed in him—We must observe that in putting Mr. Prager under the ultimate controul of the Board of Trade, according to our beforementioned Letter of July last, it was by no means our intention to prevent the full exertion of Mr. Pragers judgement in this branch of our Investment respecting the quality and Assortment of the Drugs to be in future purchased on the Company's Account since

our sole motive for bestowing this appointment on Mr. Prager proceeded from an opinion, that through his endeavors this Article, which has hitherto proved in general a losing one, would be productive on the Sales in England of very considerable profit.

21. We do not at present see any particular objection to your having all owed Mr. Prager the privilege of trading on his own Account, should any inconvenience to our concerns arise therefrom, you can easily revoke the indulgence. But with respect to your proposed measure of taking off the restraint, which all our Commercial Servants are now under not to trade, we hope you will state your opinion at large to us upon the subject, before you carry the measure into effect for our ultimate decision.

22. (16) We approve of the measure advised in this Paragraph relative to the suspension of such of our Commercial Servants against whom Bills have been filed in consequence of our Orders of the 12th April 1786.

23. (17) We likewise approve of the Appointments made in consequence of the above Supercessions, as noticed in this Paragraph.

24. (18) Will be replied to hereafter.

25. (19) We approve of the Conduct of Mr. Charles Grant in relinquishing his Contract for Malda Cloths, on being appointed to a Seat at the Board of Trade.

26. (20 & 21) We cannot reply to these Paragraphs for want of the Materials to which they refer, as your Consultations do not come lower down than the 23rd February 1787.

27. We have taken up the undermentioned Ships for the Company's Service this Season, in addition to those mentioned in our Letter of the 21st November 1787 and stationed them as follows, Vizt. Bridgewater 799 Tons, Captn. William Parker Coast & China.

Earl Talbot	.	.	.	767	John Woolmore	} China direct
Neptune	.	.	.	809	George Scott	

28. Our Exports to you this Season will consist principally of

671	Bales Broad Cloth
100	Do. Long Ells
40	Do. Broad
12	Do. Casmirs
200	Tons Lead
430	Tons Copper
200	Tons Iron
50	Tons Steel

Besides several other Articles of less Note, the Particulars of which will be seen in the respective Invoices of the Ships on which they are consigned.

### Wollens

29. The price of Medley Cloth being so much higher than the Superfine usually sent you. We have for the present sent only 100 Cloths instead of the Quantity you have indented for as we wish to ascertain to what degree it is profitable before we venture upon a large Consignment you will take the needful Measures for ascertaining this, and report the Result of your Proceedings by the earliest Opportunity.

30. Your Indent for Casimirs will be complied with, and forwarded by the Ships of this Season conformable to the Assortments you have desired—As it is a new Article we direct that particular Attention be paid to the Sale, and that the Prices be reported to us in order that we may determine how far we may enture to encrease our Consignments therein.

31. You will receive by the Manship some additional Patterns of Manchester Goods which we are desirous should be inspected and that we may be informed whether any of them are likely to answer for Sale.

32. We have also sent you, by the way of giving them a Trial, ten Pieces of a new Species of Broad Long Ells which are made in imitation of Kerseymeres you will perceive by the Invoice that their Cost is much higher than those of the Sort that has been hitherto sent you, You will therefore be particular in reporting the Prices they sell at, and what Quantity can be vended to any advantage.

### List of Investment for Ships going out 1787

#### 33. Abroahs AB R.

Not having received any of this Article since 1786 P London we would have you send us as far as 300

Addatics	AD* . . . . .	3,000
	FAD . . . . .	1,000

Which we expect to be fully complied with.

Alliballies	As . . . . .	200
	F As . . . . .	300

We have received P Manship and Berrington 183 Pieces of superfine Alliballies but altho' those sold P Manship answered we would rather have our Orders for the two Assortments of Alliballies and fine Alliballies complied with as having a preference with the Merchants but if this is found impracticable you may then send us as far as 200

---

\* See foot note on p. 96

We have likewise received by the Ships of 1787 450 Pieces of fine superfine Alliballies the Fabric of which being much approved We direct that you send us from 3 to 400 Pieces.

Baftaes	IBAF 25 Covids . . . . .	[.....]
	CLBAF 25 Covids . . . . .	[.....]
	IBAF X 28 Covids . . . . .	1,000
	CIB AF . . . . .	1,000
	FB AF + 28 Covids . . . . .	500
	FBAF 25 Covids . . . . .	10,000

As this Article when 25 Covids long answers better for printing we have encreased the Quantity to 10,000 Pieces and decreased those of 28 Covids in the same proportion.

Baftaes	CFB AF . . . . .	3,000
	CB AF F . . . . .	3,000
	FB AF 36 Covids . . . . .	3,000
	BAF F 25 Covids . . . . .	10,000

This Article is dearer this year than it was formerly nor have we found a proportionate difference in the Quality to occasion such variation.

Baftaes	NFB AF . . . . .	4,000
	BAF C . . . . .	1,000
	R C K (Guzzey) not to exceed . . . . .	10,000
	Cor BAF . . . . .	20,000
	Cor BAF-/- . . . . .	4,000

The three last Articles which we have had for the two last years having met the approbation of the Buyers We direct that the Quantity now ordered may be procured as also that they may be well dressed; the price must on no account be advanced.

Baftaes	O BAF (Patna) . . . . .	3,000
---------	-------------------------	-------

Finding that OBAF and BAFO are of one and the same assortment We desire that you always mark them OBAF as varying the marks only tend to mislead the Purchasers.

	BAF MC . . . . .	2,000
	BAF CH . . . . .	1,000

Baftaes in general being advantageous we shall expect our Orders to be fully complied with or that you give us the most satisfactory reasons for any decrease therein.

It is with pleasure we repeat our observation of last year that the Baftaes sent us are well dressed and much approved of by the Merchants but we must call your attention in the most especial manner to the reduction of the Price; your Care must be paid to all the Callicoes of 2 Covids width as they generally run narrower than

the Invoice and the Trade will not purchase them as Yard wide which they expect.

Not having ordered any Blue Cloth or Chints in our last Investment or this we repeat our Order that the Baftaes which used to be allotted for those Articles be sent home in the White to the number of ..... 100,000.

The Provision of Printing Cloth which you have invoiced under that Title and which we suppose to be in lieu of the Blue Cloth and Chints which we forbid has been greatly neglected in point of measurement several Bales having been returned by the Buyers as not answering the Lengths these Goods paying a rated as well as an Ad Valorem Duty, the Officers of the Customs notwithstanding they measured almost every Ptece in many of the Bales found it impossible from the different variety of lengths to fix any average to satisfy the Trade the same complaint existed when these Cloths were printed for Chints, and which we remarked in our former Orders, the lengths could not then be depended upon and the Company were obliged to make allowances to the Merchants. We desire that every care be taken to remedy this in future.

Mulmul Hkfs.	Mul H 20 & 2 . . . . .	1,000
	F Mul H 20 & 2 . . . . .	2,000
	N Mul H 20 & 2 . . . . .	500
	S F Mul H 17½ & 1½ . . . . .	800

We desire you will transmit us your reasons for not complying with this Article and as We find our Commanders and Officers import on Privilege the same Goods to great advantage

Bandannoes	BAN . . . . .	4,000
	FBAN . . . . .	1,500
	CBBAN . . . . .	3,000
	FCBBN . . . . .	1,500
	PBAN . . . . .	200

If the greater part of the Bandannoes were small and neat Patterns they would be more esteemed about 1/5 part should be dark or brown grounds.

Our Orders on Bandannoes in General are on no account to be exceeded.

Callipatties	CA BAF . . . . .	5,000
Carridarries	CAR 18 Covids . . . . .	100
	LCAR 24 Covids . . . . .	500
	FCAR 18 Covids . . . . .	100

Notwithstanding our repeated Orders to the contrary we still find an excess in the Article of Carridarries we call upon you to transmit us your reasons for the same and again repeat our directions that they be not exceeded on any pretence whatever.

The two three and four stripes are not approved but the small close red Stripes are much esteemed.

Chucklaes	CHK . . . . .	100
Cossaes	Co SB 40 and 2 . . . . .	1,000

We observe that you have already reduced the price of this Article and We are in hopes that you will be able to make a still further reduction as they are yet too high.

F Co SB . . . . .	200
Co S C 2 Covids broad . . . . .	2,000
O Co S C . . . . .	1,000

FC o S Co M If this Article can be procured @ 20 to 25 P Cent less than those sent by the William Pitt Phoenix and Earl Oxford you may send as far as . . . . . 2,000.

But if no reduction of Price can be obtained you must not send more than 500 Pieces.

	Co S CoM . . . . .	3,000
	Co S S Chp . . . . .	2,000
	F CoSS Chp . . . . .	500
	B B Cos C . . . . .	5,000
	F B B Co S C . . . . .	500
Cossaes	C CoSC . . . . .	5,000
	F C Co S C 2½ Covids . . . . .	1,000
Jugdea	B B Co S I . . . . .	500
	Co S OUd . . . . .	30,000

We have not ordered any other Species of Oude Cossaes than the above as they still continue too high priced.

It is nevertheless our earnest wish for a variety of reasons to give every encouragement to this Branch of the Investment and we would be glad to extend the same as much as possible if the Goods can be obtained on terms so as to admit of their yielding a profit in Europe.—With a view to effecting this purpose we highly approve the measures taken by Our Right Honorable Governor General and Council in deputing Mr. Barlow to proceed to the Vizier's Country to make the necessary enquiries on the Subject and we are in hopes that the most successful consequences will ensue therefrom. In the Event of its being discovered that the Oude Goods can be procured on Terms more favourable than the last Contract Prices, We permit of your sending the further number of 30,000 Pieces of the following Assortments.

Cossaes	Co S Oud . . . . .	6,000
	Co S Oud + . . . . .	4,000
	C o S Oud + . . . . .	14,000
	Co S+Oud . . . . .	6,000

---

30,000

We direct that all the Oude Cossaes and Cossaes Sujapore be invoiced under the head of Callicoës.

	Co S I . . . . .	2,000
	F Co SI . . . . .	1,000
	F Co S F . . . . .	1,000
	Co S Mal . . . . .	2,000
	Co SL . . . . .	5,000
	F B B Co S M . . . . .	1,000
	B Co S M . . . . .	500
	F B Co S M . . . . .	1,000
	Co S M 2 Covids broad Gold Heads . . . . .	1,500
	F Co S M . . . . .	500
	Co S MM . . . . .	500
	F Co S M . . . . .	1,500
	Co S M A . . . . .	1,000
	Co S M . . . . .	500
(Orna)	Or. Co S . . . . .	4,000
Cossaes	Co S S . . . . .	3,000
	F Co S S . . . . .	500
	S Co S L 40 and 2 . . . . .	2,500
	F S Co S L . . . . .	1,000
	M S Co S . . . . .	2,000
	S Co S 32 and 1½ . . . . .	1,500
	B So 1 CoS . . . . .	3,000
Cossaes Striped	Flo BB Co S M . . . . .	400
	Flo C Co S C . . . . .	500
	Flo C Co S . . . . .	500
	FFlo CM o S Sichi . . . . .	100
	FloF Co S M . . . . .	500

It is with concern we mention that the usual attention has not been paid to the Malda Goods. We notice what is observed by Mr. Grant in his Letter to the Board of Trade of 26th February 1787 respecting the introduction and use of debased qualities of Cotton and Thread in the Aurungs dependant on Malda whereby the Fabricks are much reduced and we trust the Circumstances stated in his said Letter will have claimed the attention of our Board of Trade and that the necessary measures have been taken for remedying the Evils complained of.

Cuttannies	Cut . . . . .	1,000
	Flo Cut . . . . .	3,000

You must positively comply with our Orders for the above as they are in great demand.

Cushtaes	Cusht . . . . .	1,000
----------	-----------------	-------

This Article must also be fully complied with.

Doreas	MDooHCHE . . . . .	500
	MDooHCHE 40 & 2 . . . . .	500
	BDoo . . . . .	400

	<b>BDoo T</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	300
	<b>BDooS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>FBDooS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>F D BDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>M BDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	300
	<b>S F BDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>F BDooC</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>CHEDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>F CHEDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
	<b>C Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>F Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	400
	<b>FCDoo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
Doreas	<b>CHAR C Doo</b>	not exceed	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
	<b>FCHAR Doo</b>	not to exceed	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,500
	<b>D Doo</b>	to be compiled with if possible	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>M D Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	300
	<b>F D Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>Doo I T S</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
	<b>B BD oo S</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>Doo C S</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	400
	<b>S F Char</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>F DooG</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500
	<b>F BDooG</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	400
	<b>S E DooG</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>A Doo</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>F Flo M Doo</b>	40 Covids	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
Doreas Striped	<b>FFloMDoo</b>	20 Covids	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFlo BDoo Sichi</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFloFDoo</b>	40 Covids	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFloFDoo</b>	20 Covids	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFloMBDoo</b>	40 Covids	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFloSFChar</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>FFloFDooCh</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50

As we have lessened our Orders in the Cossajura Doreas we direct that you fully compleat our Orders for the Cossajura Mulmuls.

Doosutties	<b>Doos</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,400
	<b>FDooS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
	<b>D DooS</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
	<b>FDDoos</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
Emmerties	<b>EMR O</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10,000
	<b>FEMR</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,000
	<b>N EMR:O</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10,000
	<b>FNEMR:O</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,000

The above orders for Emmerties we expect you will be able to comply with.

EMR:Oud

1,500

The Emmerties Oude are still too high priced and unless they can be procured at least 20 P Cent cheaper than those sent us by

but if a greater reduction in price can be obtained you may then the Phoenix we direct that you do not send us the above 1500 Pieces encrease the Quantity to 3000 Pieces.

Ginghams	GING . . . . .	300
	GnM . . . . .	300
Gurrahs	LLLGur . . . . .	3,000
	LLGur . . . . .	3,000
	FLLGur . . . . .	600
	Gur . . . . .	35,000
	F Gur . . . . .	1,500
	L Gur . . . . .	6,000
	G u R (Paana Mr. Sumner) . . . . .	1,000
	Gur M . . . . .	25,000
	Gurr 36 Covids . . . . .	5,000
	HM not to exceed . . . . .	3,000
Humhums	FHM . . . . .	500
	SFHM not to exceed . . . . .	400
	OHM . . . . .	1,500
	HMChp. . . . .	500
	FHM Chp . . . . .	500
	SFHM Chp . . . . .	100

The 3 last Articles not to be exceeded on any Account.

HMM . . . . .	1000
HMC . . . . .	1500
IHM . . . . .	1500
IHMM . . . . .	1,200

The 2 last Articles not to be exceeded unless they can be procured 20 P Cent cheaper.

Humhums	IHMMF . . . . .	500
	HMF . . . . .	1,500
	HMSF . . . . .	1,500
	HM . . . . .	300

You should continue to keep the Humhums full 24 Covids long and 3 Wide; We are sorry to observe that they are in general inferior in quality to what we have been used to receive.

Laccowries	LAC 25 Covids . . . . .	6,000
Lungees Herba	HERLung . . . . . Upon no account to exceed	300
Mammoodies	MAM . . . . .	5,000
	OMAM . . . . .	4,000
	FMAM . . . . .	200
Mammoodies Striped	FLoMAM . . . . .	6,000
Mulmuls Cossajura	FCBBMul 3 Covids broad . . . . .	900

As we have ordered no superfine Mulmuls we expect this Order to be fully complied with.

	CBMul . . . . .	3,000
	FCBMul 2½ Covids broad . . . . .	2,000
	MFCBMul . . . . .	1,000
	C Mul 2 Covids broad . . . . .	1,000
	O C Mul . . . . .	1,000
	FC Mul . . . . .	1,000
	SFCMul . . . . .	400
Mulmuls Dacca	Mul Mah 2 Covids broad . . . . .	4,500

We repeat our Orders of last year that you be particularly careful in attending to the Fabrick of this Article and we expect that you will fully comply with the Quantities now ordered.

Mulmuls Seerbetties	Mul Seerbetties . . . . .	3,000
Mulmuls middling	Mul Seerbetties . . . . .	3,000
	F Mul Seerbetties . . . . .	2,000

As we are fully assured Dacca can supply the Quantities of Mulmuls Mammodialy and Mulmuls Seerbetties here ordered We expect the same will be fully complied with.

Mulmuls	SFMul . . . . .	300
	SFLMul 48 Covids . . . . .	500
	FLMul . . . . .	100
	SFMul 45 Covids . . . . .	800
	BBBMul . . . . .	500
	MulRad . . . . .	500
	SABMul . . . . .	1,000
	FBBBMul . . . . .	200
Mulmuls	SFBBBMul 40 Covids . . . . .	500
Ballasore	Mul B . . . . .	1,000
	F Mul B . . . . .	300
Mulmuls Ballasore	FBBBMulCy . . . . .	100
	BMul 2½ Covids . . . . .	5,000
	FBMul . . . . .	1,500
	SFBMul . . . . .	500
	Mul S 2 Covids Broad . . . . .	1,000
	O Mul . . . . .	500
	Mul 4 Covids long and 2 Covids Broad . . . . .	3,000
	FMul . . . . .	3,000
	FMul Mal . . . . .	300
	Mul So . . . . .	60

You sent us 55 Pieces of this last Article by the King George 1786 which were provided by Mr. Crofts and are named in the Invoice Mulmuls Santipore ordinary 40 & 2.

As this is a new Article in our Investment and has given satisfaction to the Merchants we desire you will comply with the above

Order and informs us whether the same can be encreased in future and to what extent.

	SMul 36 & 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5,000
	FSMul 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 36 & 2	1,500
	BFSMul	1,500
	Mul Sol	500
Mulmuls	FBBMulCy	500

This latter Article is invoiced much too high and unless it can be provided very considerable under the Price of those received P. Rodney 1786 We would not have it continued.

	SFMulCy	500
(Mulmuls stitched)	FFloCMul 40 Covids	100
	Flo Mul 20 & 2	800
	FFloMul Chicy	100
Nainsooks	NAN L	400
	FNAN	200
	SFNAN	100
	FNAN Cpp	800
	SFNAN Cpp.	300
	FNANI 40 & 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	600
	SFNANI	300
	SNAN	300
	FNAN Cy	1,000
	SFNAN Cy	1,000

We expect that our Orders for Nainsooks will be fully complied with the more especially as we have ordered none of the flowered Assortments but that the Work People may not be entirely out of employ We have encreased our Orders in the flowered Terrindams

Nainsooks Hkfs...	SNANH	[500]
-------------------	-------	-------

We hope that you will be able to reduce the price of this Article much under that charged P Mansfield in 1786 and we must observe that there is too great a difference of Price in the same Bale we would rather have 2 Bales of 50 Pieces each and the prices nearly according than 1 Bale of 100 Pieces with such a disproportion in the Prices.

Nillaes	FNL	800
	SFNL	800

You are not on any account to exceed the quantities of Nillaes here ordered.

Peniascoes	PEN	500
	FPEN	500
Photaes	PHO	1,500
	FPHO	600

We desire our Orders for Photaes may be complied with they being in great demand.

Putcahs	Put 25 Covids long & full 2 broad . . . . .	4,000
	Chp Put . . . . .	1,000

These two Articles are much too dear if the first can be procured 15 P Cent and the second 25 P Cent cheaper you may encrease the quantities ordered 3 or 4000 Pieces of each Assortment.

Romals Barnc.	BRom . . . . .	1,000
---------------	----------------	-------

We have taken no notice of the Barnagore Romals of the other marks leaving to make the Assortment as you may think proper for the interest of the Company but we must strictly enjoin you not to exceed on any account the above Order of 1000 PS.

Do. Choppa Bandannoes . . . . .	CHBAN . . . . .	2,000
Do. Silk Lungce	SLRom . . . . .	3,000

Provided they can be purchased at or under the prices of those sent us in 1787 P. William Pitt Phoenix & ca. if not only ——— 1,500  
Do. New. ————— NR not to exceed ————— 500  
unless they can be procured 15 P Cent less than those sent us P Phoenix 1787.

Do. Pulicat	M . . . . .	1,200
„ Cotton	Sut Rom . . . . .	60,000
„ French	Sut RomF . . . . .	1,500
	Sut Rom FX . . . . .	500
	Sut Rom D . . . . .	1,000
	F Sut Rom . . . . .	5,000

Unless this Article can be purchased 25 P Cent cheaper than those imported P William Pitt & in which case you may send us 2 or 3000 pieces more.

Sannoos	SANS . . . . .	1200
	MSANS . . . . .	200
	SANSF . . . . .	200
	SANSSF . . . . .	200

The Quantities ordered of the four last Articles are not to be exceeded on any pretence whatsoever unless provided considerably lower than those sent us last year.

Sannoos Oud	SANS Oud . . . . .	1000
	ANS X Oud . . . . .	4000
	SFSANS Oud . . . . .	10,000
	FSAN Oud . . . . .	200
Seerbands	Seer B. . . . .	1500
	F Seer B. . . . .	1500

As we are well assured the Dacca Factory can furnish you with the Quantity ordered of the two last Articles we hope from the Exertion of our Chief there that our Indent will be fully complied with.

Seerhaudconnaes	Seer h I . . . . .	800
Jungal	FSerr h I . . . . .	500
	SF Seer h I . . . . .	200
	Seer h . . . . .	100
Serbetties	F Seer BtS . . . . .	1500

This Article must be complied with as they are much esteemed.

	Seer BtS . . . . .	500
Seersuckers	Seer S of low Prices . . . . .	400
	F Seer S 24 Covids . . . . .	800
	SF Seer S 24 Covids . . . . .	700
	F Seer SF not to exceed . . . . .	200

You are on no account to exceed the Quantity ordered unless you can purchase them 40 P Cent lower.

Soosies	LSoo 50 & 1½ . . . . .	100
	Soo 40...2 . . . . .	100

Let there be sent in the Bale 50 Pieces of plain white Stripes and the remaining 50 of small red and white Stripes.

Taffaties	TAF . . . . .	1500
	RTAF . . . . .	500
	BTAF . . . . .	500
	TAFU . . . . .	500

The Orders of the above four Articles are by no Account to be exceeded unless they can be purchased at least 20 P Cent lower.

SF AF . . . . .	1500
-----------------	------

All Red Stripes to be packed by themselves.

As we have not ordered any of the Taffaties marked TAFX TAFCH TAFCHT TAFCT TAFAG TAF C STAEX we hope you will be fully ably [sic] to comply with our Orders for the last Article.

Tanjeecbs	FB BTBANI . . . . .	150
	SFBBBTANI . . . . .	150
(Bahar)	TANBh . . . . .	10,000

Of the same sort as those sent us by the Earl Mansfield 1786 part of Mr. Scotts Contract.

TANB . . . . .	400
TAN . . . . .	3000
FTAN . . . . .	3000
FTAN with Gold Heads . . . . .	1000
SFTAN . . . . .	800
FSFTAN . . . . .	150

As the above 6 Articles are much approved of we trust our Chief at Dacca will exert himself to procure the Quantities ordered.

	FMTAN . . . . .	1000
	TANI . . . . .	800
	FTANI . . . . .	1,000
	SFTANI . . . . .	700
(Santose)	BTAN of low prices 2½ Covids Broad	1500
	FBTAN with Gold Heads . . . . .	2000
	TANS . . . . .	1500
(Serra)	TANS 36 & 2½ . . . . .	4000
(Serra)	TANS 36 & 2 . . . . .	1800
	TANS 36 & 1½ . . . . .	1300
	FTANS 36 & 2½ . . . . .	1200
	FTANS 36 & 2 . . . . .	950
	FTANS 36 & 1½ . . . . .	1,200
	TANN . . . . .	800
	TAN Bud from 7 to 11 Rs. a pieces with a Gold flower in the Corner (provided at Dacca Factory)	500
Terrindams	BT : R 2½ Covids of low prices . . . . .	1,000
	FBT : 40 & 2½ . . . . .	700
	FBT : R cy . . . . .	1000
(Dacca)	SFBTER 40 & 2 . . . . .	1000
	C BTE R . . . . .	700
(Sooksagorc)	TE RS . . . . .	800
	TE R S . . . . .	1000

If this Article can be provided 25 P Cent cheaper you may in that se send us as far as 3000 Pieces.

FFlo FBTE R 40 Covids . . . . .	700
FFlo FTER 20 Covids . . . . .	400

We have encreased this Article as we have ordered none of the flowered Nainsooks.

The Marks Characters and Fabric of the Goods must be invariably kept up also the lengths and breadths should be strictly attended to, the Trade in general and Foreign in particular placing so much confidence upon them that they are in a great measure enabled to give their Orders by the List of Assortments and on which the reputation of the Goods has been so established as to give them a decided preference over all the Imports of other Companies we also direct you to avoid multiplying marks unless they are really a new Fabric.

It is our positive Order that you avoid mixing of different Letters Letters in a Bale as A B C, as it is impossible for the Buyers to come at the real value and buying upon average is to the disadvantage of the Company We therefore direct that this may be observed in future Imports.

34. We transmit you a number in the Packet Catalogues with the prices affixed against each Lot of the Raw Silk sold in the March and

September Sales 1787. The Quantity sold in March Sale of the Company's was great £d. 135755 at an average of 26s/2d P £d. and 36673 of privilege at 25s/8d and in September Sale gr. £d 96370 Comany's at £. 1.4.10-63460 Privilege at £. 1.7.3.

35. We also transmit you a Paper of Observations and remarks upon the Qualities of the different parcels to which you will pay due attention.

36. The Quantities and Assortments necessary for the annual demand of this Country were stated in our Letter of the 11th April 1785 We are sorry to have occasion to remark that in the late Imports a due regard has not been paid to the proportions of each— This is a point so essentially necessary to be adhered to that we must insist on the Board of Trade seeing that it is complied with in the most punctual manner respecting the Company's Imports as any deviation therefrom will not fail to draw forth our severest displeasure.

37. The Price of Raw Silk at our 2 last Sales was very considerably enhanced on account of the almost entire failure of the last Season in Italy. It is probable when the Season comes round again the Prices will abate.

38. Having taken a review of the issue of Our Concerns in the Article of Indigo from the time of our Board of Trade entered into the first Contract with Mr. Prinsep in the Year 1779/80 up to the latest period We are sorry to remark the very heavy losses that has [sic] constantly accrued thereon.

39. It appears from an Account We have caused to be made out a Copy of which is transmitted a number in the Packet that the produce at the Sales of the several Parcels purchased of Mr. Prinsep prior to the year 1786 has yielded a remittance of only 1s. 7d. 67d the Current Rupees which reckoning the rupee but at 2s is a Loss in the first Instance of upwards of 17 P Cent independent of Freight and Charges which may be reckoned at full 10 P Cent more or equal in the whole to a loss of 27 P Cent.

40. Of the Quantity contracted for in 1786 with Messrs Prinsep Douglas Udney Fergusson and Barretto J. P. Scott and Henry Scott we are not able at present fully to state what have been the losses thereon as only a part has been yet disposed but at the Price at which that part sold there is no reason to suppose the latter contracts will turn out more favourable than the former ones. Of Mr. Prinseps deliveries the Parcel P. Phoenix sold only at an average of 5.4.62 which is a loss on the prime Cost and Charges of 10.97 P £ d.

Those of Mr. Douglas P. Berrington averaged only 5s. 1d. 15dec. or loss of 11d. 44dec.. P £d. Those of Mess. Fergusson & Barretto P. Earl Talbot averaged 3s. 11d. 70dec. or a loss of 2s. 3d. 62dec. P £d. Of those of Mr. J. P. Scott P. Berrington we can make more favourable mention as the Parcel received from him averaged 7s. 5d. P £d. which yielded a profit of 11d. 01 P £ d. notwithstanding however the

advantages gained by the latter Parcel Our losses upon the aggregate of the above Parcels have been very considerable as will appear from an Account Transmitted herewith which shews that what stood us in Cost and charges £ 30,207 producing only.—21,596.

Which is a loss of £ 8,611. or equal to 28 P. Cent.

From a due consideration of these circumstances we see a necessity for adopting some other measures concerning this Article than those that have been heretofore pursued.

41. We feel with reluctance that an Article which considered in a political point of view has every claim to our attention as having a tendency to render the Companys possessions in Bengal more valuable by creating from the Soil and labor of the Natives an Export Commerce capable of being carried to a very great extent as well as ultimately to benefit this Country in supplying an Article so necessary to its manufactures and for which large Sums are annually paid to Foreigners should be wholly abandoned after the very heavy Expenses that have been incurred in bringing it to the degree of perfection at which it is now arrived but at the same time We cannot in justice to the Companys Commercial Interests which are equally an object of our concern acquiesce in the measure of investing any further Sums therein until there is a more flattering prospect of their turning to a more favorable Account. To accomplish this either the Article must undergo a very considerable reduction in price or be materially improved upon as to quality.

42. The Prices at which tenders have been made [by] you for the years 1787/8 are by no means such as we apprehend are at all likely to answer at this Market unless it shall prove to be of a very superior assortment to our former Imports. We have therefore from a due reflection upon the subject come to a resolution to decline all further concerns in Indigo (any Engagements you may have entered in with Mr. Boyce excepted) for the term of 3 years to commence from the receipt of these our Advices in Bengal and that one years notice be given of a future resumption of the same by the Company during which period we permit of its being sent home on the account of our Servants and all other[s] under our protection upon payment of Freight Company's Duties and Charges in the same manner as took place respecting the Article of Raw Silk.

43. We are led to the measure of laying open this branch of Trade in the hopes that it will create among Individuals that kind of competition which will not fail to operate in bringing the Article to its greatest possible state of perfection as well as to ascertain the lowest rate at which it is possible to be manufactured in addition to which we conceive that it will afford the Company's Servants a legal ample and We hope an advantageous mode of Remitting their fortunes to Europe and of Course be the means as far as it shall extend which we are assured may be to a very considerable Amount of depriving Foreigners of those Resources which they have been so successful in procuring for carrying on their Commerce to the great injury of the Company as well as the Nation at large.

44. The Sample transmitted of the Manufacture of Mr. Boyce having been inspected by a Gentleman on whose Judgement we place a Strong Reliance he has delivered a Report thereon to the following purport That the Quality of that contained in the white Bag is equal to Spanish at 9s./6d. to 10/6 P lb. the second sort and that he can aver with propriety any Quantity may be sold at that price—that the making it in shape about an inch square will be a very great Recommendation.

That what is contained in the Red Bag is a Strong Copper and will always find a reddier [sic] Sale than that in the White there being a greater quantity of it Consumed. The price would be about 6/Pr. lb. the Shape should be the same, the Shippers always preferring a good square.

The quality required for the different Markets is for Turkey/  
Copper

Russia/Blue

Sweden and the North/lean low blue

Hambro'..... Copper bold

Holland.....Middling black Copper  
the blue Bag is about the same quality as the Red.

45. If any quantity of these Assortments are procurable through the Medium of Mr. Boyce either by agency or Contract on terms that are likely to yield us any Advantage you will Act therein as you shall judge as is the most conducive to our Interest.

46. We note with satisfaction the observation of the present Board of Trade in their Letter of the 27th February 1787 that they proposed as soon as the Affairs which then immediately pressed, would permit applying themselves to give every satisfaction in their Power on Sundry points respecting which we had required specific information in several former Dispatches in the execution of which some progress had been made by the late Board of Trade, We trust your expected Advices by the Ravensworth will bring us the Result of their proceedings on these Subject [sic] particularly as to our enquiries respecting the Article of Salt Petre. The reduction that took place upon the Contract of 1786 affords us much satisfaction and to trust if any thing further can be effected therein that our Board of trade will not be inattentive to our Interests in so material a point, We have in Order to encrease its demand at our Sales been induced again to lower the Price which has so far succeeded that at the last September Sale 25,000 Bags went off at an Average price the Common at 45s/2d. Pr Cwt. and the refined at 48s/. We have declared the like quantity for the approaching March Sale but how far the demand may in future be in this proportion we are unable to determine. Our Present Stock on hand including the 25,000 Bags declared for March Sale 1788 is 84,105 Bags.

47. In Respect of the Quantity to be laden on the Ships to be returned from your Presidency our agreement with the Owners

continues for 300 Bags on each ship which we do not at present wish should be encreased except as a measure of necessity in the event of your not having a sufficient quantity of other Goods to compleat the Chartered Tonnages of the Respective Ships you shall return laden from your Settlement in which case it is more for our Advantage that a further Quantity should laden than that the Ships should be sent away dead freighted. Upon recourse to the Tonnage of the Respective Ships dispatched by you in 1786/7. We find the Goods laden on them fell short of what they were Chartered at as follows.

	Tons
Manship . . . . .	163
William Pitt . . . . .	117
Phoenix . . . . .	169
Earl Talbot . . . . .	66
Ganges . . . . .	59
Berrington . . . . .	116
Earl of Oxford . . . . .	72
	<hr/> 762 Tons

so large a Portion of unoccupied Tonnage has subjected us to a charge of Freight more than equal to that of a whole Ships Cargo. Should such a Case occur in future, we direct that the vacant Tonnage be filled up with Salt Petre.

48. As we conceive it may be useful in the well management of our Commercial concerns that you should be kept from time to time advised of the State of our Sales at home so far as Respects Bengal Goods we subjoin an Account of the Quantity price and sale Amount of Goods sold in March and September Sales 1787 Vizt.

## MARCH SALE 1787

Bengal piece Goods White . . .	£439,092			
Prohibited . . .	51,033	£490,125		
	lbs.	£ s d		
Raw Silk Company's . . .	(?Gr.) 135,755	@ 1. 6. 2.		£177,583
privilege . . . . .	36,673	@ 1. 5. 8.	47,159	224,742
		(pct ?)		
Salt Petre Common . . . . .	Ct. 8040	@ 2. 10. 6.	(pct ?)	20,078
Refined . . . . .	12374	@ 2. 12. 6.	35105	55,183
		(pct ?)		
Red Wood . . . . .	Tons 54	£22.5 (pct) Ton		1,151
Drugs . . . . .				
Cotton Yarn . . . . .	lb. 6,114	@ 2/3½		£708
Indigo . . . . .	31,615	@ 5/3		8,297
Shellack . . . . .	456	@ 3/9		1,573

Sticklack . . . . .	1359	£1. 10. 6.	2,072
Sapan Wood . . . . .	20Ct.	1. 10. 6	30

## SEPTEMBER SALE 1787

Drugs			
	lbs.		
Cotton Yarn . . . . .	31,856	3.3½	£5243
		Pr. lbs.	
Indigo . . . . .	45,321 }	4.8½	10,721
	47,076 }	4.7 Ct.	10,875
Sticklack . . . . .	79 Ct.	£2. 15. 6.	219
		P. Ct.	
Sapan Wood . . . . .	263	1. 1.	275
Salt Petre . . . . .	25,207	2. 4. 6.	56,246
Refined . . . . .	6,055	2. 8. 0.	14,609
Red Wood . . . . . Tons	232	18. 15. 0.	4,360
Bengal piece Goods White . . . . .	..	..	729,098
Prohibited . . . . .	..	..	83,535
J. Raw Silk Company's . . . . .	96,370	@ 1. 14. 10.	119,724
Privilege . . . . .	63,460	1. 7. 3.	86,506

49. We direct that you transmit as an account specifying the Quantity and amount of the different Articles of our Investment exported from your Settlement under the heads of

Cotton piece Goods  
Silk Do.  
Raw Silk Filature wound  
Do. Country wound  
Indigo Salt Petre &C&C

and that such account be annually made up and transmitted by the last Ships of each Season.

50. We transmit you for your Information a printed price Current of the latest date of the several Articles therein mentioned at the London Market and refer you to our Orders of the 12th April 1786 respecting a Similar paper—to be sent us from your Settlement which we expect will be complied with.

51. Mr. Peter Touchet of your Civil Establishment having presented to us a Memorial stating that during his Residence in India he had paid the utmost attention to improving the Quality of the Article of Raw Silk but that he had been a material Sufferer from not being acquainted with the preparation it receives at the Mills in England and as he is extremely desirous of effecting every further improvement in so valuable a branch of our Investment to the perfection of which this Knowledge appears absolutely requisite and requesting that we would permit Mr. Samuel Blackburn who has been brought up in this branch to proceed to Bengal in his our Commercial concerns that you should be kept from time to time

employment to assist him in Carrying on his Silk works and having taken the same into consideration and called Mr. Blackburn before us who produced the most satisfactory testimony of his Abilities certified under the Hands of the Principal persons in the Silk Trade we have permitted Mr. Blackburn to proceed to Bengal for the term of 5 Years on his executing such Covenants as are usually entered into by Persons proceeding to India to practise in the way of their profession (trading in the Articles of Raw Silk and Indigo excepted). A Copy of his Covenant will make a Number in the Packet of the Ship Triton on which he embarks.

52. When the Ship Airly Castle shall have delivered her Consignments for your Presidency she is to be dispatched to Fort Marlbro' with supplies of Opium Stores &c for that Settlement agreeably to the Directions contained in our separate General Letter to your Presidency dated the 31st July 1787 from whence she is to be returned to England with a Cargo of Pepper.

53. In our Letters of the 12th April 1786 Par 123 and 27th March 1787 Paras 239 and 40. We acquainted you that we had discovered a parcel of Rubbish that had been shipped as Salt Petre and that the same would be returned you in Order that restitution might be made for the Sums disbursed on account of the same—The Quantity is found to be 684 Bags as Pr. an Account transmitted a Number in the Packet properly attested by our Warehouse keeper Our intentions were to have laden this Parcel on some of the Ships of this Season but as we have been much straitened for Tonnage to accommodate the Kings Troops we have sent only a Box of Samples which you will receive by the Manship and what remains we shall put up to sale as Sweepings. As soon as possible after the Sale we shall make up and transmit you an account shewing what it has produced the difference between which and the Average Price of Good Petre we shall insist on being made good to us should you be able to trace out and fix a Charge of raud on the Contractor or negligence on the part of any Person in our Employ.

We are

Your affectionate Friends,

London  
the 28th March 1788.  
Exd. John. Harrap

John Motteux/Nath: Smith/J.  
Manship/Edm. Boehm/Thos.  
Cheap/J. Simth/W. Bensley Hugh  
Inglis/T. Pattle Junr./Thos.  
Fitzhugh/Paul Le Mesurier/Step.  
Lushington/John Travers/Jn.  
Townson.

[Endorsement]  
Company's General Letter to  
Bengal  
Received 24th July Per Manship  
No. 1

## LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1788

*Charges for the use of mooring chains at Diamond Harbour*

Public Department

**OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.**

You were advised in a former Letter of our Intentions to have a conference with the owners of the Ships which had arrived from Bengal on the Subject of Diamond Harbour a Correspondence has been entered into with those Gentlemen respecting the rate of Charges for a Ship riding by the Moorings only or taking the Advantage both of the Chains and half a Banksall on Shore when we proposed to Charge 600 Sicca Rupees a Month for the Mooring Chains only, and 800 Sicca Rupees P Month for the Chains and half a Banksall all together each Ship, but the Terms the Owners offer'd fall so greatly short of our Expectations that we do not hesitate to pronounce them inadmissable, and as there is no prospect of coming to an Agreement on this Head, Our only resource is to leave it to you to cause such an Engagement to be entered into between your Officers on the part of the Company and the Commanders of our Ships on the part of their Owners to make such Allowance for the use of the Chains and Banksall as shall appear to you all Expences and other Circumstances considered to be a resonable Charge permitting the Commanders to make their Option whether they will use the Chains only or the Chains and Banksalls together but not to suffer any Ship to be benefitted by either whose Commander shall not previously engage to make such allowance as shall be settled by you out of the Ships Account of Freight and Demorage.

We are

Your Affectionate Friends

John Motteux/Nath: Smith/T.  
 Pattle Junr./John Hunter/W.  
 Elphinstone/J. Smith/Jas. Mof-  
 fatt\*/Paul Le Mesurier\*/E. Boehm  
 Robt. Thornton/Hugh Inglis/W.  
 Bensley/John Travers/John Ro-  
 berts/Jn. Townson/John Manship.

London  
 9th April 1788.

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal

Received P. Lord Macartney 29th August

No. 1

Enclosed in the ..... Recd Per Airly Castle.

\* Order of signatures different in letter Sent per Airly Castle.

## LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1788

*Annual statements for each sort of goods imported from England to be duly submitted.*

## Commercial Department

**OUR** Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

[1.] Amongst other directions given by us on the Subject of Exports in Our Letter to you of 12th April 1786, We ordered the annual transmission of a List specifying the particular quantities of the different Articles of Europe Goods received by you in each Season, stating under every Article the various dispositions or uses made thereof and (if any) the remains, and that the prime Cost, the Sale Price, and the profit or loss be affixed to such of the Articles as shall be sold.

[2.] Upon a reconsideration of this Order, it seems necessary for the purpose of calculating the profit and loss upon different Principles, to be more explicit in respect to the Statement of each sort of Goods required to be sent us.

[3.] On one side of these Statements must be exhibited the quantities remaining on hand at the commencement of the year for which they are made out when imported and by what Ships distinguishing them severally the Invoice amount in Pounds Sterling including a proportion of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent Charges at the end of the Invoice; to which must be added the Quantities received in the Course of the year, distinguished and stated in the same manner. On the other side the Quantities sold or otherwise disposed of in the course of the Year, distinguishing when and by what Ships imported, the Invoice Cost, stated as on the opposite side, and the produce in Current Rupees, to which must be [added] the remains (if any) at the End of the Year with the Invoice Cost annexed thereto.

[4.] In the Statement of Broad Cloth it will be proper to distinguish the coarse from fine, and fine from Superfine, and in the Statement of long Ells to distinguish the Broad. The various sorts of Copper must likewise be distinguished, and at the foot of each Statement must be given the amount of Warehouse room and all other Charges incurred in India such part of the Goods as may be sold or disposed of according to the best Estimate that can be formed thereof.

[5.] The first of these Statements must be made out from the 30th April 1787 to the 1st May 1788; and the said Annual Statements always be forwarded by the earliest conveyance after the 30th April, in each Year.

**Similar statements must be procured of such parts of the Goods consigned to you, as may be sent to your Subordinate Factories and**

the Statements from these Places transmitted with your own, or as soon after as they can be procured.

[6.] To prevent any misconception concerning the mode of making out such Statements, a Form goes a number in the Packet and contains further directions on this Head.

We are

Your affectionate Friends,

London.

9th April 1788.

[Endorsement]

Duplicate

Company's General Letter to Bengal

Received per Lord Macartney

29th August

No. 1

John Motteux/Nath. Smith/T.  
Pattle Junr./John Hunter/W.  
Elphinstone/J. Smith/Paul Le  
Mesurier/Jas. Moffatt/E. Boehm  
/Robt. Thornton/Hugh Inglis/W.  
Bensley/John Travers/John Ro-  
berts/Jn. Townson/John Manship.

24

## LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1788

*New Secret Committee of the Court—Francis Gladwin's 'History of Hindustan'—surveys and other original documents to be transmitted to England for preparing general maps there—instructions regarding surveys to be undertaken by Reuben Burrow and Michael Topping—copies of letters from various Residents to be sent to England—observations on some important aspects of Company's accounts: debts in India: military arrears: estimates of receipts and expenses.*

### Public Department

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para. 1. We wrote to you last in this Department under dates of the 28th March, and 9th April.

2. We have put on board the Swallow 1000 Ounces of Foreign Silver for the use of that Vessel, in case she should be obliged to put into any Foreign Ports for refreshments or repairs during the Voyage, for which Captain Anderson is to account on his arrival in India.

3. It has often happened on the arrival of Ships that Boxes containing Private Letters have by accident been forwarded to this

Facsimile of a section bearing the signatures of the Court of Directors



House long before those which contained the Company's dispatches. In order to remedy the inconveniencies experienced therefrom. We direct that in future the Company's Dispatches and Book Packets be kept apart from Private Letters and put in Boxes with distinguishing marks affixed thereto and that you enjoin the Commanders of our Ships to be careful in sending up the Packets containing the Company's Dispatches immediately on their making their first Port in England.

4. We have appointed Nathaniel Smith Esqr. our Chairman—John Michie Esqr. our Deputy Chairman together with William Devaynes, John Roberts, Joseph Sparks, John Smith and John Woodhouse Esqrs. to be the Committee of Secrecy for giving the necessary Directions respecting the safety of the Company's Shipping the orders therefore of any three of the said Committee respecting the same must be obeyed with the greatest punctuality.

5. Having appointed Nathaniel Smith Esqr. Chairman, John Michie Esqr. Deputy Chairman, and John Roberts Esqr. during the present directions to be a Secret Committee agreeably to, and for the purposes stated in the Acts of the 24th and 26th of His Present Majesty, We hereby direct that all orders and instructions which you shall receive from our said Secret Committee be observed and obeyed with the same punctuality and exactness, as though they had been signed by thirteen or more Members of the Court of Directors conformably to the said Acts.

6. As we have been uniform in our opinion on the expediency of transferring to your Presidency such part of the Bonded Debt of Bombay as may not have been subscribed for, we very much approve of your having agreed to adopt the measure proposed by your Accountant General for that purpose in his Letter of the 3rd October last. We have already in the 50th Para of our Letter of the 28th March last, expressed our approbation of the Paper Debt at Fort Marlborough having been likewise transferred to your Presidency, and our proposal for transferring the whole of our Indian Debt to Europe is very amply detailed in our Letter upon that Subject of the 31st July 1787.

7. Having received a Letter from the Marquis de La Luzerne, dated at Versailles the 3rd May last, signifying the high sense which the King of France entertains of the Civilities shewn to the Comte de Rosily, and the Officers of the Frigate Venus, by the Governor General and Council in Bengal, we transmit a Copy thereof for your information.\*

8. We have permitted Mr. Robert Holt to return to his Rank in our Civil Service at your Presidency.

9. Having lately received information of the Death of Mr. Henry Walter late a Member of the Board of Trade in Bengal, and taking into consideration the distressed situation of Mrs. Walter and her Family we resolved to allow her a Pension of £ 60. P. Annum. during her life and £ 30 P. Annum. for each of her two Children till they shall be of age which allowances are to commence from Mr.

---

\* See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 34, 1788-89, pp. 45-6.

Walter's death—You will therefore discontinue the Payment to Mr. Walters Attornies of the allowance granted him on his leaving Bengal from the 30th May 1788.

10. Captain Thomas Gladwin has acquainted us that his Brother Mr. Francis Gladwin<sup>1</sup> is employed in preparing a History of Hindostan, and requested our Patronage of the same; and as we are desirous of Countenancing him in the work he has undertaken we direct that you afford him all suitable encouragement in the Prosecution thereof, as the Merits of the work may intitle him to.

11. In the 213th Paragraph of our Letter dated the 27th March 1787 we signified our pleasure that the allowance of 250 Rupees P Month made to Captain Hamilton in Bengal on account of the Literary Work in which he is engaged be continued to him twenty two months from the date of his Letter to your Board of the 22nd December 1785, or to the 19th October 1787. We have since resolved to permit him to enjoy the said allowance for the further Period of twelve months from the 19th Octr. 1787 and direct that the same be paid accordingly.

12. At the same time that we express our approbation of your ready attention to our orders concerning the improvement of Geography and Navigation. We must observe that our intentions have been misunderstood. We mean tthat all *Documents* be sent to *England* (reserving a Copy in India to prevent accidents) for the very few Draughtsmen likely to be in India will be much better employed in making, or Copying *Surveys* and other Documents of original information, than in constructing any general Maps, from such Documents, which we mean to have executed in England, from all the Materials accumulated here, and without disparagement to any Man's abilities now in India, we cannot but think Major Rennell the fittest Person to form a general Map: Draughtsmen employed in India in constructing such Map would be employed more to the end desired, by supplying us with Copies of the Charts, Maps and Plans already formed.

13. We were well aware of all Circumstances when we ordered Copies of the Maps and Plans specified, but we cannot agree with your Surveyor General that these Copies would necessarily be attended with great expence and require much time to Copy; for Copying Maps and Plans on transparent Paper, is a work easily and speedily performed by a careful Person, without almost any knowledge of drawing.

14. We do not mean to depreciate th<sup>e</sup> Elegance in execution of Drawings, but *actual information* must supercede every consideration of *Decoration*. We doubt not to have elegant drawings from Individuals, who wish to distinguish themselves, and to whom by Honorary presents of Instruments &ca. We shall not be wanting to testify our approbation of their Merits.

15. We think the orders transmitted to the other Presidencies to send to Bengal Copies of the Maps &ca. there, may retard their being sent to England: We therefore direct that all such Copies

received at Bengal from the other Settlements be transmitted to us by the first conveyance, and that in future they be sent directly from those Settlements to England, and afterwards Copies may be sent to Bengal of such as you may think necessary to have immediately in your possession.

16. We approve of your employing Mr. Reuben Burrow<sup>2</sup> but we are sorry to see that he was meant to be employed in the Bengal Province, as we are perfectly satisfied that the Positions assigned in Major Rennell's Survey which is already published, are determined with sufficient precision for any purpose.

17. Our President and Council of Fort St. George have transmitted to us Mr. Topping's Journal<sup>3</sup> and observations from Masulipatam to Calcutta which in good measure supersede the necessity of Mr. Reuben Burrow treading the same Ground: They are very reprehensible if they have not communicated Mr. Topping's observation to you; if they have we doubt not it will prevent your ordering Mr. Reuben Burrow on that Work.

18. We have already ordered a survey (which is commenced) of the Malabar Coast from Bombay this will likewise supersede the necessity of Mr. Reuben Burrow's intended operations there.

19. It would indeed be of the utmost Consequence to have the *actual and relative Positions of Calcutta, Fort St. George and Bombay* precisely determined. We therefore recommend if, the Time Keepers with which Mr. Burrow is supplied go uniformly, that his first operation be to determine the *relative Positions* beforementioned of Calcutta, Fort St. George and Bombay losing no time between Settlement and Settlement unnecessarily as the more speedily he passes from the one to the other, the more Precisely will the relative Positions be determined. We however recommend to his attention, the determination of every intermediate position that can be had without delay; more especially Pt. de Gale and Cape Cameron; as some stay at each place will be necessary to determine the rate of the Time Keepers during that stay no opportunity should be omitted of observing the Meridian Passage of the Moon, Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter, and Occultations of fixed Stars by the Moon, most especially by the dark part of the Moon and the like observations being made at Madras will afford correspondent information for the precise determination of the *relative positions* and by comparison with observations in other parts of the World for determining the *actual Longitude* of such places. Whilst at Madras the same observations being made by Mr. Burrow as by the Astronomers usually observing there, will serve to shew whether any constant difference subsists in Mr. Burrow's observations from theirs, which will be absolutely necessary to the exact inference from Correspondent Observations at the different Settlements.

20. The reciprocal Longitudes of Calcutta, Fort St. George and Bombay should be assigned by Time Keepers in more than one Passage between Place and Place because the repeated Result, by

agreement or the mean Result, where the difference is not great, will be an useful Check on Correspondent Observations made at the two Places.

21. But if the Time Keepers with which Mr. Burrowes is supplied do not go uniformly.—The Voyage for determining thereby the relative Positions of Calcutta Madras and Bombay need not be undertaken as the expence of the Voyage would have no adequate advantage attending it, since neither the Principal nor intermediate Positions would be precisely determined, Astronomical observations at near places (except in fixed observations) being incompetent to the purpose, in such case Mr. Burrow should confine himself to observations for determining the Longitude of Calcutta precisely, and when that is effected he may proceed to Bombay for the same purpose on any Ship which may happen to be bound thither without incurring the expence of a vessel going on purpose.

22. We direct that the proceedings of Mr Burrow, and of all other Surveyors, be transmitted to us by every succeeding conveyance, that we may be enabled to judge how far the intended purpose are executed, and that we may have the speediest information which is of essential consequence to the operations carrying on in England—These being frequently stopped by wanting a very small Link in the Chain of information.

23. We hope that the Office and Establishment of Surveyor General in Bengal will be conducted with the utmost frugality on account of the expences which will attend the Copying the various documents we required. We direct that the Map of India, which you mention be sent home in *it's present state*, and when we receive it we shall reap the advantage of all the information it contains.

24. We persuade ourselves the measures you have taken to obtain nautical information will be attended with Success; and we direct that all such information, whether Charts, or Nautical remarks be transmitted by the earliest conveyance to England.

25. The Person described in the 7th Article of the Regulations you have transmitted to us ought to be a draughtsman and write a good hand. We think he should have no other Employment but Copying Charts, Maps, Plans and Journals or other Documents to be transmitted to us, or in making Copies to be kept in India, of the *originals* so transmitted.—The Charge of all Charts Maps or Plans and other like Documents belonging to the Company should be vested in him under the directions of the Governor General, and an exact Register made; and carefully kept of all particulars, noting how they are at any time disposed of, either by being sent to England, or otherwise delivered by him; and of all received into his charge. We hope you will be careful in the choice of the Person to be selected for this charge. From the Specimen which Lt. H. R. [sic] Colebrooke<sup>4</sup> has afforded of his abilities in this Line, we think he should have the option of this employment.

26. There are many Maps in your possession that are already in England. We do not therefore require Copies at present of any that are not in the enclosed list\*, wherein is expressed the order in which we wish to have the Copies sent of what you already have, but every new acquisition must be transmitted by the earliest opportunity: For the facility of making Copies we now send you half a Ream of transparent paper; We need not observe to you that as it becomes opaque in the warm Climates it ought not to be exposed to the Air and that the Chart &c. should be traced in Black Lead Pencil and afterwards done in Ink-correcting any defect in the outline; We are informed that the Ink proper for the purpose is China Ink or any Ground Ink not too fluid.

27. We have in contemplation to send by the Ships of next Season the proper instruments for measuring *one or more degrees* on the Coast of Coromandel. Mr. Topping at Madras. and Mr. Burrow in Bengal were mentioned to us, as Persons competent to execute this trust. It is a satisfaction to perceive that you and our Administration at Madras have the same favourable sentiments of the abilities of those Persons: we wish the Governor General to consult with Sir Archibald Campbell concerning the execution of this intention; and for your information we transmit Copies of Major General Roy's application to us on the subject, and of the report thereon by Mr. Dalrymple<sup>6</sup> and Major Rennell.

28. We have directed the President and Council of Fort St. George to employ Mr. Topping in making a survey of the openings of the Godavery into the Sea as it has been suggested to us as an object of essential consequence to ascertain whether Ships of Size can enter that River or be sheltered in it's neighbourhood.

29. In case Mr. Topping should not be employed in *measuring the degree* we recommend that after executing the Work in which he is now engaged, he be employed in determining the positions of places on the East side of the Bay of Bengal down to Prince of Wale's Island and from thence, by Acheen down the West Coast of Sumatra to the Strait of Sunda, in the course of which Voyage he will be attentive to take views of all Lands.

30. The Owners of the Ship Calcutta on settling Accounts with the Company having made a demand for victualling the Passengers who were sent on Board at Fort St. George in the Month of October 1782 from the time they were received till their delivery at Bengal in January 1783, we have agreed to pay them their demand on this account, as it did not appear by any of the Books received from you, that you had paid the Commander. But as we know that it has usually been the Custom for the Commanders to be paid in India for Transporting Troops and other Passengers from Port to Port; and in some cases We have known such Payments to be made notwithstanding they have not appeared on your Books and the Commanders Receipts have not been transmitted, We agreed to the above payment to the Owners of the Calcutta conditionally, that, if it should hereafter appear that you had paid the Commander, they should repay to us here in England, the Sum so paid by you

with Interest : You will therefore advise us by the first opportunity and also in Duplicate by the Second whether any payment was made by you on the above account, and if there was transmitted us the Receipt given, or an attested Copy, to enable us to recover of the Owners according to our Agreement with them.

31. Altho' we find by late advices that the Apprehensions of Tipoo's Invasion of the Carnatic, have, for the present, subsided owing in a great measure as we have been informed both by yourselves and Lord Cornwallis separately, to the Judicious and Spirited Conduct of Sir Archibald Campbell we embrace the earliest opportunity of expressing our approbation at the readiness you manifested to give every assistance both in Money, Stores & Provisions to the Madras Presidency.

32. As the official Correspondence which passes between the Residents at the several Indian Courts and Military Officers and others, must naturally contain information worthy of our notice and may tend to elucidate and explain Public transactions; we hereby direct that you regularly transmit to us a Copy thereof with the other proceedings of your Government. We are particularly desirous of receiving a Copy of the Correspondence deposited in the Residents Offices at Lucknow and Benares, since the 1st January 1774, and you must carefully examine whether the same be complete.—If any deficiencies should appear you will enquire into the cause, and take the most effectual means to have them supplied by calling upon the Parties if in India, whose Correspondence shall appear wanting, or, if in England to state the same to Us, that we may be enabled to recover it. Your own Correspondence with the different Residents you must continue regularly to enter on your Consultations as usual.

33. In our Separate Letter of the 31st July 1787, we entered into a Particular detail of observations on the Accounts which we had then before us respecting the amount of our Current Revenues, and expenses in India, of our available Assets, and the Debts owing by us according to the latest advices we had then received, We trans-[mitted] by the same Conveyance the several accounts laid before Parliament in that Year and expressed our desire of being furnished with such observations as might occur to you upon considering those Accounts, and the Resolutions formed upon them, We now send the Accounts and Resolutions formed upon the same principles in the last Sessions, on which you will make such further observations, as may appear necessary and transmit them to us by the earliest opportunity.

34. The accounts we have since received are not sufficient to enable us to judge, how far the expectations formed from the accounts received last year have been realized. The account stating the difference between the actual and Estimated Receipts and Disbursements of the Bengal Government for 1786/7 does not answer the full purpose of such a Comparison as we have directed to be

sent home in future Years. It however afforded us the satisfaction of finding that as far as respects the Current Revenue and expenditure exclusive of Interests on Debt in that year, the result appears to have been as P. No. 3. herewith enclosed, more favourable by (8,64,022) Eight Lacs, sixty four thousand, and twenty two Current Rupees than the expectations held out by the Estimate.

35. The only account we have received respecting the actual Receipts on Payments at Madras for 1786/7 is an Abstract of the amount of the Collections under the Board of Revenue which appears to have been (18,22,975) Eighteen Lacs, twenty two thousand, nine hundred and seventy five Pagodas it was estimated at Pagodas (18,72,870) Eighteen Lacs, seventy two thousand, eight hundred and seventy, We impute the difference to the uncommon drought of that Season, and to the consequent failure of Crops in the Jaghire Lands.

36. From Bomaby we have received an account stating the actual amount of the Current Revenues and Charges of the year 1786/7, as far as the same could be made out, a Copy of which we now enclose, though we imagine it will probably have been transmitted to you from thence. This account however is not complete, the Revenues and Charges of Tellicherry, Fort Victoria, Caranjah and Bussorah, being stated at their amount in 1785/6 no statements for the Year 1786/7 having been received from those settlements. As the account stands the Revenues appear to have amounted to Rupees (11,59,671) Eleven Lacs, fifty nine thousand, six hundred and seventy one, and the Charges to Rupees (35,73,171) thirty five Lacs Seventy three thousand, one hundred and seventy one, leaving a deficiency of Rupees (24,13,500) twenty four Lacks, thirteen thousand, and five hundred, or Current Rupees (27,99,660) twenty seven Lacks, ninety nine thousand, six hundred and sixty. In the Estimate for the same year the Revenues were taken at Rupees (11,41,713) eleven Lacs, forty one thousand seven hundred and thirteen; But with respect to the Charges, the arrears were so confounded with the Current expences in the Estimate as to prevent any comparison being now made between the estimated and actual Amount.

37. Our orders relative to the future formation of these Comparative accounts, you will have received in the Separate Letter of 31st July 1787, and we have no doubt of their being accurately complied with in future from each of our three Presidencies: We do not think it necessary therefore to say any thing further on this Subject at present but shall proceed to make some observations on the result of the Accounts which we have received since the date of that Letter.

38. The first Point there adverted to was the amount of our Debts in India.—In the account laid before Parliament in that Year we had stated them according to the latest accounts then received Vizt.

From Bengal 31st July 1786 carried on by estimate to 1st November 1786 . . . . .	}	9,26,40,162
Madras 31st July 1786 . . . . .		
Bombay 1st September 1786 . . . . .		
Bencoolen 22nd March 1786 . . . . .		

By subsequent accounts we had been enabled when we wrote to you in July to bring this statement down to a later period at Bengal and from such information as we then possessed, we estimated the whole of our Indian Debts in December 1786, including what had been subscribed to the remittance Plan of September 1785 at above Ct. Rs. 9,50,00,000. By the account No. 5 & ca. received P. Thetis it appears that the amount in April 1787 was—Ct. Rs.—9,63,87,687.

According to the following Computation Vizt. Total of Debts at Bengal, Madras, and Bombay as stated in the

Quick Stocks . . . . .	7,76,76,086
------------------------	-------------

Add

Military Arrears of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies of 31st Decr. 1785, which are to be discharged in Ben- ) gal not included in the Statements of Quick Stock of ) either Presidency . . . . .	17,00,000
---	-----------

Contingent demands against the Bombay Treasury on account of the Detachment under the late General Mathews . . . . .	11,60,000
--	-----------

Debts at Bencoolen P Quick Stock of 1st January 1787 as in account No 14—laid this year before Parliament	8,83,567
--	----------

The Amount subscribed to the remittance Plan to 30th April 1787 . . . . .	1,49,68,034
--	-------------

---

1,87,11,601

---

9,63,87,687

In the account No. 14 laid by us before Parliament this Year our Debts are brought down as they were last year to different periods for the different Settlements—Vizt. at Bengal to the 31st October, Madras 31st July, Bombay 30th April and Bencoolen 1st January 1787 according to our latest Advice the whole is stated at Ct. Rs. 7,62,21,563

To which if we add the sum then advised to be sub- scribed being . . . . .	1,49,09,307
---	-------------

---

The whole amounts to . . . . . 9,11,30,870

From the latest Statements now before us our Debts appear to have been nearly as follows *Vizt.* . . . .

At Bengal 31st October 1787 Pr. Account No. 14 . . . . . 4,13,74,324

At Madras 31st October 1787 from a Quick Stock received since forming the Accounts presented to Parliament Pags.

30,83,329 . . . . . 1,31,04,148

At Bombay 30th November 1787 Pr. a.

Quick Stock Account received pr. a.

Bombay Rupees . . . . . 1,92,48,184

### Add

Contingent demands against the Bombay Treasury on account of the detachment under Genl. Matthews which do not appear to be included in the Quick Stock

10,00,000

Bombay Rupees . . . . . 2,02,48,184

or

Ct. Rs. . . . . 2,34,87,893

Debts at Bencoolen 30th September 1787 P. Quick Stock of that date Dollars 400,363 . . . . Ct Rs. . . .

10,00,907

Total . . . . Ct. Rs. . . . . 7,89,67,272

And the amount subscribed to the remittance Plan appears to have been as follows :—

At the three Presidencies to 30th April 1787 P Account No. 11 P Thetis . . . . .

1,49,68,034

At Bengal between 30th April & 31st December 1787 P No. 10 . . . . .

16,08,647

At Madras between 30th April and 30th November 1787 P No 10 . . . . .

1,84,322

---

1,67,61,003

---

So that according to this computation the amount of our Indian Debts at the latest periods, of which we have any accounts appears to have been, exclusive of what may have been subscribed at Bombay between 30th April and 30th November 1787 . . . . .

9,57,28,275

In the account No. 10 of those received P. Thetis, the amount of Debts on the 30th April 1788 is estimated at Current Rupees . . . . .

8,18,01,423

Deduct for Assets estimated to be applied in the course of the Year to the discharge of Debt or to expenditure as P Account No 10 . . . . .	58,35,370
	<hr/> 7,59,66,053

Add,

The amount subscribed to the remittance plan as above	1,67,61,003
Total 30th April, 1788 Ct. Rs.	9,27,27,056

39. From these statements it should seem that in the course of the two Years 1786/7 and 1787/8, supposing the Estimate for the latter Period to be nearly accurate, there will have been no considerable diminution of the Debts owing by us in India, except what has arisen from the Subscriptions to the remittance Plan and consequently that our Current Revenue aided by what has been received of extraordinary Resources, have only been adequate to the Payment of our Current expences in addition to the Interest of Debt, to the Investment for Europe and to the Supplies which have been sent to China.

40. We observe however, that in the latest Accounts which we have received a Sum is stated to be for the first time brought forward on account of Military Arrears at Bombay, not included in any former statement, and we have no doubt that circumstances of the same nature have continually occurred in the course of the two last Years, from the difficulty of winding up the complicated state of our Affairs at the conclusion of the late War. We trust that the whole account of our debts is now before us, and that our Affairs will from hence forward continually assume all more favourable Shape.

41. We have seen with great satisfaction the continued exertions which have been made by your Government for relieving the other Presidencies from the load of their Military Arrears. It is a strong proof of the rapid improvement of our situation that this has been effected in such a manner as that the rate of discount on our Paper has gradually fallen, and that even under the peculiar circumstances stated in Lord Cornwallis's Letter of the 10th Janr'y 1788 it stood in December 1787 only at 6-12 P. Cent, We shall be anxious to learn the detail and effect of those measures which you have adopted under the powers committed to you by our Letter of the 31st July 1787. On this will depend further steps which it may be proper for us to take and in the event of any considerable part of the Debt remaining unsubscribed at Bengal, we shall be desirous of receiving your sentiments with respect to such a plan as it may be adviseable for us to adopt for a gradual discharge of the Capital of such Debt, and in the mean while if possible for a reduction of the Interest by measures consistent with the state of our engagements at home, with which you are fully acquainted; and consistent also with the strictest regard to the good faith which is due to our creditors abroad.

42. In our Letter of July 1787 we estimated the available assets at Ct. Rs. 3,00,00,000—three Crores which is Ct. Rs. 89,63,914—eighty nine Lacks, sixty three thousand, nine hundred and fourteen, more than the Sum at which they are stated by Lord Cornwallis in the Account No. 10.

43. As the Amount of those Debts which may be depended upon as recoverable as well as, the periods at which they will be received, must in many instances be merely conjectural, we do not think it necessary to enter in any more particular discussion on this head at present, especially as we expect to be furnished with much important information from the observations of our several Government[s] on our Letter of last Year. From the uncertainty of this subject, we have in our Accounts presented to Parliament in this Year as well as in the last, stated our Debts without any reference to our Assets in India, and we wish in future to receive from you accounts in that form, in order that those which we may hereafter lay before Parliament may correspond with those which we have hitherto stated.

44. With respect to the Estimates for 1787/8 of our several Settlements, we must refer you in general to our Letter of last Year upon this Subject. The excess of the estimated Disbursements at Bengal above the receipts of the Year Vizt. Ct. Rs. 1,36,16,525 one Crore, thirty Six Lacks, sixteen thousand, five hundred and twenty five, and which by the addition made to the Investment for 1788/9 would be encreased to Ct. Rs. 1,49,86,642 One crore, forty nine Lacks, Eighty six thousand six hundred and forty two, appears at the first view to give a very unfavourable idea of our affairs there. But as this amount is in a great measure occasioned by the immense supplies made and engaged for in the Years 1786/7 and 1787/8 on account of the arrears of the other Settlements, which will not occur again, and as the Credit of your Government does not appear to be affected by incurring so large a debt we see no reason for alarm at that excess for this year. We think it necessary however to observe, that although these supplies amount for the two Years to no less a Sum that Ct. Rs. 2,79,42,113, Two Crore Seventy nine Lacks, forty two thousand one hundred and thirteen for the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay; We do not perceive in the accounts of those Presidencies a diminution of Debt at all equal to the amount by which these supplies must necessarily exceed what could be wanted by them on account of the Current expences of the Year. The conclusion which seems to follow from this circumstance, is, that these supplies were in part appropriated to the discharge of Debts which had not before been brought to account, or that in proportion as the debts which had before been stated, were diminished, others were brought forward.

45. We observe an error in the report of your Secretary respecting the excess of supplies made and engaged for in 1786/7 above those Estimated, In this statement he has taken on one side the whole amount of supplies made and engaged for, and has deducted

from it on the other side only the estimated supplies included in the Disbursements of the Year, but not the amount due on that account at the beginning of the Year included under the head of Disbursements in arrears which was also estimated to be paid in that period, accordingly he makes the excess—Curt. Rupees—1,24,27,431. But the supplies of the latter description included in the Estimate were as follows.

Fort St. George . . . . .	13,39,601
Bombay . . . . .	15,69,504
Bencoolen . . . . .	2,72,826
Canton . . . . .	1,12,739
St. Helena . . . . .	9,630
	33,04,300 [Sic]

---

The actual excess therefore above the Estimate appears to have been . . . . .	91,23,131
---	-----------

46. In our observations upon your Estimate for 1786/7 We remarked that the amount to be received from the Land Revenues after deducting the Balances which might remain uncollected at the end of the Year and including the Balances to be recovered on account of former Years, was in our opinion taken too high, Your account of the difference between the estimated and actual Receipts, gives us no satisfactory information on this point, as it states only the amount realized in that Department, without particularizing the gross Revenues, the Amount of the charges of Collection or the Balances remaining uncollected, In your Estimate for 1787/8 the amount is taken at Current Rupees (12,51,695) Twelve Lacks, fifty one thousand Six hundred and ninety five, below the Amount estimated for 1786/7 which difference arises from the Gross amount of the estimated Collections being stated Ct. Rs. (7,51,174) Seven Lacks fifty one thousand, one hundred and seventy four less in the latter estimate and from Ct. Rs. (5,00,520) Five Lacks, five hundred and twenty more being allowed for Balances that might remain uncollected, above what would be collected of former Years balances.

47. From the late inundations We have reason to apprehend that the event may not be more favourable than this Estimate otherwise from the observations above referred to, We should have thought this defalcation too great.

The account of the collections and Balances of Land Revenues delivered in by the Accountant of the Revenue Department in August 1787 is carried to no later a period than that of 1783/4 and does not therefore appear a just standard for a calculation at present especially as this account might certainly be carried down to a later period.

48. In your Estimate of 1786/7 the charges of Buildings and Fortifications being omitted We informed you in the 39th Para: of our separate Letter abovementioned, that We had thought proper to insert in the account No. 2 presented to the House of Commons in that Session, the Sum of Seven Lacks of Current Rupees under that head, which was about the average expence incurred in the Years 1781 to 1784, The Account shewing the difference between that Estimate and the actual Receipts and issues, includes no expence on account of Buildings & ca. though it appears from the Dead Stocks of 30th April 1786 and 30th April 1787 that it amounted to four Lacks between those periods exclusive of Diamond Point, and as several articles both of unexpected Receipts and Disbursements have been brought to account in that Statement, We should apprehend so large a Sum disbursed for Buildings and Fortifications would not have escaped notice and therefore conclude it stands under the head of Military Charges, but as this is only conjecture, and it is highly necessary that every Article of Receipt or Disbursement should be clearly defined in your accounts, We wish this Point to be ascertained in Your future Accounts.

49. We observed in the same Letter Paragraph 36th that the Estimated Amount of Civil Charges for 1786/7 appeared to us too large, and expressed our hopes that by the next advices We should see these reduced within the Limits of our orders respecting them, We are sorry to find that not only the actual charges of 1786/7, amounted to a Sum considerably above the Estimate for that year, but also that the expected amount for 1787/8 is nearly Current Rupees (37,00,000) Thirty seven Lacks, but as on receipt of our orders of March 1787 you determined to revise the expence of the Civil Establishment We shall wait the event of such revision with an entire confidence in the disposition which you have shewn on all occasions to make every practicable reduction in our expences.

50. Respecting the other Articles of Receipt or expenditure, no observations appear necessary in addition to those which are stated on the accounts themselves, as herewith enclosed, or which are contained in our Letter of last Year on this subject.

51. In regard to the Madras Estimate for 1787/8 We have only to observe that the expences there appear to have been encreased above their Estimated Amount for 1786/7. This increase arises under the head of Military Expences and We are apprehensive from the late Advices which we have received from that Presidency that our Expences on the Coast in that Department must probably in future exceed even the amount estimated for 1787/8.

52. The Bombay Estimate for 1787/8 being the first that We have received from thence since the Peace, which affords any distinct information on the state of our Affairs at that Presidency We are unable to make any Comparison between this and former Estimates. But the statement of the Revenues and Charges of this Presidency before adverted to as far as it extends affords some ground for relying on the accuracy of the present Estimate.

53. Taking the several Estimates for 1787/8 as they now stand, and separating as far as we are able the Current Receipts and Charges of the Year, from Arrears, or such as are extraordinary, the Result appears to be nearly as follows.

	Current Re- venues
At Bengal . . . . . Ct. Rs.	5,06,48,906
Madras Pags.32,73,041 . . . . .	1,39,10,424
Bombay Rs.11,76,601 . . . . .	13,64,857
	<hr/>
	6,59,24,187
.	
Current Charges	
At Bengal . . . . . Ct. Rs.	3,06,62,401
Madras Ps.31,77,785 . . . . .	1,35,05,586
Bombay Rs 36,51,245 . . . . .	42,35,444
	<hr/>
	4,84,03,431
	<hr/>

Nett Revenue of the three Presidencies 1,75,20,756.

But this Sum may probably be reduced by the additional Expences expected to be incurred on account of several new Arrangements lately adopted.

54. In the first place the Military Charges will be encreased by the late Augmentation of His Majesty's Troops. This Encrease we estimate to amount in the whole including Contingencies to about Ct. Rs. 13,00,000.

Secondly, a further Encrease will arise from the Addition made to the Cavalry in Bengal in September 1787 as stated in Lord Cornwallis's Minute upon this Subject the Expense of each of the two Regiments according to the Statement accompanying this Minute is Sont. Rupees (8,712-8) eight thousand, seven hundred and twelve, eight Annas P Month, or P Annum (1,04,550) one Lack, four thousand five hundred and fifty, and for both (2,09,100) two Lacks, nine thousand one hundred and the Expense of the two Russollahs by the Bengal Estimate for 1787/8 appears to have been Sont. Rupees (1,29,600) one Lack twenty nine thousand, six hundred, the difference being but Sont. Rupees (79,500) seventy nine thousand, five hundred, it should seem that a Lack of Current Rupees would be a sufficient Allowance, for the Encrease of Expense, on this Account. But in the same Minute, his Lordship further proposes that other Additions shall be made to this Establishment, whenever the State of the Finances will bear the Expense, or when Exigencies may require it, till the Establishment of the two Regiments shall be completed to the Establishment directed for a Regiment in the Orders of September 1785.

As this Establishment is more than double that for which the Statement above referred to was made, the Expense of course will be proportionally encreased, and will probably exceed the present Expense of the two Russollahs by about 4,00,000

Thirdly an additional Expense will be incurred by completing the Establishment ordered at Bombay, amounting by the Letter received from thence, of 27th Novr. 1786, to 4 Lacks of Bombay Rupees 4,64,000.

Fourthly, the Receipts at Bengal will be reduced, by the Abolition of the Government Customs there, the exact Amount of which we are not able to ascertain. From an Account of the Nett Receipts in this Department, we find that the average Amount from 1781 to 1784, was about Ct. Rs. (7,84,535) seven Lacks eighty four thousand, five hundred and thirty five. But in the Bengal Estimate for 1787/8, the Nett Amount stated to be received in that Year, is—14,59,280.

And if that Sum be taken as the Loss in this Department, the total of encreased Expense and Defalcation of Revenue, in Consequence of these Arrangements would appear to be about . . . . .	36,23,280
--	-----------

Which taken from the Nett Revenue above stated	1,75,20,756
--	-------------

there remains . . . . .	<u>1,38,97,476</u>
-------------------------	--------------------

from which, deducting the Amount of Interest on the Debts, as stated in the Account No. 14	53,53,341
---	-----------

The remainder amounting to . . . . .	<u>85,44,135</u>
--------------------------------------	------------------

together with what may arise from the Sale of Import Goods & Stores, and from Certificates, is applicable to the Provision of Investment, and to the Supplies to the other Settlement and China.

The amount estimated to be received on account of these Articles for the year 1787/8 appears to be—	31,50,630.
making in the whole, for the purposes above stated—	<u>1,16,94,765.</u>

55. From this conclusion it would appear that we were justified in our opinion stated in our Letter 31st July 1787, "that our Resources in India could afford the means of purchasing Investments to the extent required for supplying our Sales in England, and of paying regularly the Interest on our Indian Debts." But it appears that they could only be sufficient for that purpose, and would afford no Fund for the discharge of our Debts in India.—We trust however that the effect of our orders respecting the Transfer of those Debts to England will have been such, as to have afforded effectual and substantial relief to our Affairs at our different Presidencies.

56. We have considered that Part of the 35th Paragraph of your Letter in the Secret Department dated 22d. Jan'y 1787 in which after stating that you have enjoined your officers to send their Accounts in, yearly, before the 1st day of July. You add :

"These being transmitted to you by any Ship or Packet in July or August in each year, will probably arrive in England in all December, and Parliament will be completely possessed of the latest information of the state of our Establishment immediately after the opening of the Sessions."—

57. And we now advert to this the more particularly, as the accounts this Year, did not arrive till the beginning of April and we are directed by the 5th Clause of an Act of Parliament passed in the last Sessions, (Copies of which have been forwarded to our several Presidencies accompanying the Secretary's Letter of 29th March last, and you will receive others by the present dispatch) to lay before both Houses annually, the accounts of the Revenues and Charges with the amount of Debts owing in India, and the Interest they respectively carry, made up to the latest advices; within the first fourteen sitting days after the first day of February.

58. We therefore direct the strictest attention to be paid to our being furnished with the proper Materials to enable us to comply with the directions of the Act in their fullest extent and particularly that the Accounts of our Revenues Charges and Debts be forwarded to the latest date possible.

59. We transmit in the Packet for your information several Copies of the Treaty of defensive Alliance between His Majesty, and their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces, signed at the Hague the 15th April 1788.\*

60. We refer you to the enclosed Copy of a Letter to the President and Council of Fort St. George† for our Sentiments and directions on certain important points which had been referred to our consideration by Sir Archibald Campbell in a Letter from him under date the 21st July 1787 [1788] an Extract from which is likewise enclosed for your further information.‡—The shortness of the time your recent advices and proceedings by the Ships Ravensworth and Busbridge have been before us, does not admit of our entering into a particular reply thereto by the present Conveyance.—This will be done by an early Ship of the ensuing Season.

61. You will receive by this Packet, No. 22, our Solicitors Report of the present state of the Appeal in the Patna Cause of Nauderah Begum against Behadre Beg and others\* together with a Draft of a Plea, on behalf of the Company agreeable to Council's Opinion in Case an action shall be brought on the Bond.\*\*—We hope by the Ships of next Season to send you the Decree of the Lords of Appeal in this Cause and desire that in the mean time you will give proper

\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 34, 1788—9, pp. 55-66.

†Not available.

\*\*See Home Public Letters From Court, Vol. 34, pp. 67-70.

orders for defending the Company against this demand in Case an Action shall be brought and if judgement shall happen to be given against the Company that you appeal therefrom to His Majesty in Council.

We are

Your affectionate Friends,

Nathl Smith/Step : Lushington/  
Joseph Sparkes/John Travers/  
W. Bensley/George Tatem/Abram  
Robarts/Thos. Parry/T. Pattie  
Junr./Chas. Mills/John Roberts/  
Jacob Bosanquet/Jn. Townson/  
Jas. Moffatt/W. Elphinstone.

London.

20th August 1788

[Endorsement]

Company's General Letter to Bengal  
No. 1.

Recd Per Swallow 22 Jany. 89.

### Enclosure I

[Vide para 34]

### COMPARISON

### OF THE

Estimated and Actual AMOUNT of the Revenues of the East India Company, in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and from Benares and Owde, under the Heads of Mint or Coinage Duties, Post Office Collections, Benares Revenue, Owde Subsidy, Land Revenues, Customs, and the Receipts from the Sales of Salt and Opium, for the Year 1786-7; and of the Charges defrayed by the said Company in the said Provinces, and in Benares and Owde; distinguishing the same under the respective Heads of Civil; Military, and Marine, the Charges of Buildings and Fortifications, of collecting the Revenues and Customs, and the Advances and Charges on Account of Salt and Opium for the said Year;

### AS FAR AS THE SAME CAN BE MADE UP

Revenues	Estimated Amount to be received for 1786-7	Actual Am- ount receiv- ed in 1786-7	Surplus in the actual Receipts	Deficiency in the ac- tual Recei- pts.
Mint Duties . . .	15,873	15,319	—	464
Post Office Collections	1,00,000	1,09,191	9,191	—
Benares Revenue .	42,80,858	43,12,650	31,792	—

LETTER FROM COURT

Owde Subsidy	45,77,973	(a)34,10,653	—	11,67,320
Land Revenue, Net Amount expected to be realized, as the actual Gross Collections and Charges are not stated	(b)2,26,51,324	2,38,84,053	12,32,729	—
Customs, Net Amount, for the same reason	(c)14,61,600	16,05,059	1,43,459	—
Sales of salt Do.	47,56,000	53,05,716	5,94,716	—
Sales of Opium, Do.	6,58,320	12,32,320	5,73,749	—
TOTAL	3,85,01,858	3,99,19,710	25,85,636	11,67,784
Net Surplus of Actual Receipts				14,17,852
				25,85,63
Deduct Charges	1,93,36,103	1,98,89,933	9,60,437	4,06,607
Excess of actual Charges		—	—	5,53,830
				9,60,437
Net Revenue	(d)1,91,65,755	2,00,29,777	16,26,199	7,61,177
Excess of the actual Net Surplus	8,64,022	—	—	8,64,022
	2,00,29,777			16,25,199

- (a) This is the whole Amount received from the Vizier in the Course of the Year, deducting only the Payments made for his Brothers, and the Rohilla Stipends; but it must be observed, that as Arrears were due to the Troops serving in his Dominions on the 1st May, 1876, to the Amount of about 7 Lacs, which were probably discharged out of the first Payments made by the Vizier in 1876-7, the amount must be considered as not belonging to the receipts for current Subsidy for 1786-7, but for the Balance of the former Year.
- (b) By deducting the Charges from the Revenue as entered in the Account presented to the House last Year, the Difference is Crs. 2,25,17,924, but there was omitted to be added to the *Revenues* the sum of Crs 1,33,400 for Fees formerly received by the Collectors, & c. now brought to the Company's Account.
- (c) By a similar Omission on the same Account in this Department, in the Account presented last Year, the Net Customs were short stated Crs. 69,000.

(d) The Net Estimated Surplus of Revenues differs from that stated in the Account presented last year for the Reasons above mentioned, and because the Buildings and Fortifications are omitted. See Note (e) .

CHARGES	Estimated Amount 1876-7	Actual Am- ount 1876-7	Surplus in the Actual Charges	Deficiency in the Ac- tual Charge
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Mint Charges	43,886	45,398	1,512	—
Post Office Do.	1,64,165	1,65,299	1,134	—
Charges of the Re- sidency of Benares	1,64,163	1,29,395	—	34,768
Do. of the Re- sident P X. Offices at Lucknow	59,086	3,67,158	3,07,072	
Do. of the Sup- reme Court of Ju- dicature and Law Charges	6,73,706	33,26,158	3,85,128	—
Other Charges in the Civil Establi- shment	22,67,324			
Total Civil Char- ges Crs.	33,82,330	40,42,408	6,94,846	34,768

## MILITARY

Charges on the Company's Ac- count	1,08,05,463			
Do. Vizier's Do.	45,77,973			
Total Military Charges	1,53,83,246	1,50,11,597	—	3,71,839
Marine Charges	5,70,337	8,35,928	2,65,591	

## Revenue Charges

Customs Do.

The Heads of Charges are not inserted here, the heads of the Revenue being stated at their Net Amount, for the Reasons given on the other Side.

Salt Advances and  
Charges .

Opium      Do.

(e) 1,93,36,103    1,89,89,933      9,60,437      4,06,607

Excess of Actual  
Charges .

5,53,830

---

60,9,437

---

- (e) The Head of Buildings and fortifications is to separately inserted either in the Estimated or actual Account of Charges. It was stated on Estimate, in the Account presented last Year, at 7 Lacs, being the Average Expende of 3 years.—The Actual Expende was only 4 Lacs;—but as the Accountant General of Bengal has included in the “Account, stating the Difference between the Estimated and Actual Disbursement”,—several Articles under the Heads of ‘Unexpected Disbursements’; and it is probable would not have omitted to so large an Amount for this Article, it is not certain whether the Charges of Buildings and Fortifications is not included under the Head of Military Charges actually incurred.

East India House,  
16th May 1787 (*sic.*)Errors Excepted      Wm. Wright  
Auditor of Index  
Accots,

## No. 3

COMPARISON OF THE Estimated and actual AMOUNT of the REVENUES of the East India Company, in the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, and from Benares and Owde, under the Heads of Mint or Coinage Duties, Post Office Collections, Benares Revenue, Owde Subsidy, land Revenues, Customs, and the Receipts from the Sales of Salt and Opium, for the Year 1786-7; and of the Charges defrayed by the said Company in the said Provinces, and in Benares and Owde; distinguishing the same under the respective Heads of Civil, Military, and Marine, the Charges of Buildings and Fortifications, of Collecting the Revenues and Customs, and the Advances and Charges on Account of Salt and Opium for the said Year.

AS FAR AS THE SAME CAN BE MADE UP

## Enclosure No. 2

[Vide Para 60]

*Sir Archibald Campbell's suggestions regarding policy to be adopted in case of non-payment by Nawab of Arcot and Raja of Tanjore of instalments when they are due.*

Extract of Letter from Sir A : Campbell to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated Fort St George 21st July 1787 [1788].

By the State of our Receipts & Disbursements from 1 May 1787 to 30th April 1788, now transmitted, you will perceive that our expected

Receipts amount to a very considerable Sum; and I do not entertain a doubt of our realising all that depends on the exertions of your own Servants.

It is necessary however to observe, that a very large portion of these Receipts, will rest on the punctuality of the Nabob of Arcot & the Rajah of Tanjore in the payment of their Kists. It is true that I have hitherto been successful in prevailing with both to preserve a very tolerable share of punctuality in this respect, & I am confident it is perfectly in their power to continue it, if they manage the Affairs of their respective Countries with common circumspection.

Prudence & forethought in the management of Revenues, are however seldom to be met with amongst the Native Powers of Hindostan; & from what we have seen of those we are most connected with in this Country, I am not over sanguine as to their conduct in this Respect,—for which reason, you must not be surprised if we fail in collecting all that is set down as receivable within the Year from the Nabob of Arcot & the Rajah of Tanjore.

Failures from public calamity or necessity, I shall always be ready to make allowance for, & to recommend to your indulgence: but if such failures should happen from gross mismanagement of the Country Affairs, from Neglect, oppression, or any cause that could, by wise management, be prevented. I hope you will hold this Government fully warranted in pursuing the means pointed out by the different Treaties, of entering upon the Country, & receiving the Revenues, until the Arrears are Discharged. In case of any capital failure in the payments alluded to, I beg leave to submit to your consideration another point, to which it may be necessary, under the great extent of burthens that both Princes labor under, to extend your Instructions & Authority.

If the Nabob's or the Rajah's Kists should run largely in Arrear, so as to preclude the prospect of it's being speedily brought up, I am of opinion, that you ought, in such event, to authorise your Government here, to use their endeavors to get the entire management of the Country into their own hands, & so to continue until the Public & Private Debts of the Parties failing are entirely liquidated; but should those endeavors prove ineffectual to accomplish that end, it will then become a Question of no small magnitude for your wisdom to decide upon whether to meet the ruinous consequences which will inevitably fall upon your Affairs under those failures, or to authorise your Government, after the fruitless trial of every milder expedient, to use their power, in the last Resort, to secure those Resources on which your existence as a Political Power absolutely depends. God forbid that such a case should ever occur in my Government, or that it should ever become necessary at any future period of your Affairs; but as this emergency is not beyond the pale of possibility, I think it but fair, and a duty which I owe to the service, to bring the Question at this early period before your view. By such means, and such only, can either of the Princes expect to be relieved from their incumbrances, if they once fall considerably

in Arrear.—The measure I suggest, can never be pleasing to them, or conformable to their ideas of power & Consequence; Yet I am perfectly convinced it is the only remedy that ever can be applied, with any prospect of success, either for their advantage, or that of the Company.—

Public 1789 Dept.

No. 19

Accompanying the Genl. Letter from the Court of Directors dated 22nd August 1788.

P. Swallow

Enclosure No. III

[*Vide* para 61]

*Solicitor's report on the cause of Nadira Begum*

Behadre Beg & Nadarah Begum

The judgement in the Supreme Court was obtained 5th March 1779 for 309208 Rupees 10 annas for damages & casts 47574 Rupees 10 annas were afterwards levied under an execution & for the remaining 261634 Rupees the defendants were surrendered to Prison.

21 Geo 3. Cap 70. Sec. 27—It was enacted that the persons imprisoned should be forthwith discharged from the imprisonment on security being given for the damages recovered, which security the Governor General & Council of Fort William in Bengal aforesaid were thereby required to cause to be given on their behalf & that it should be competent to appeal to his Majesty in Council against the judgement in like manner and to the same effect as if such appeal had been presented within the time for that purpose limited by the Charter.

20th January 1783 the following Order was made in the said cause by the Supreme Court viz.

Mr. Dunkin advocate for the plaintiff in this cause admitting that the said plaintiff has in her possession two several Bonds given by the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies to her one of the penal sum of sicca rupees 523,268 for the performance of the judgement in this cause, in case the said judgement shall be affirmed & the other for the penal sum of £ 1500 stg which last mentioned Bond the plaintiff in this cause accepts as security for the cost of the appeal in this cause. It is ordered that the appeal against the judgment given in this cause be allowed upon the motion of Mr. Davies Advocate for the defendants.

The Proceedings in the Cause being sent over under the seal of the Supreme Court, a Petition of Appeal was prepared & presented on 7th July 1784.

28th July 1784 the usual Order was made referring it to the Committee for hearing appeals from the Plantations [Petitioners].

After an appeal is presented time is necessarily allowed to the Respondents as well as the appellants to prepare Briefs & cases the Proceedings in this cause being excessively long, required more than ordinary time.

6th June 1785. The Respondents appeared. In June 1786.

The Appellants solicitor being ready to proceed to hear the cause, applies the Respondents Solicitor requesting that the cause might rest as it was till after the vacation to which Appellants Solicitor assented to the rather because whatever delay arose could operate only to the Disadvantage of the Respondents. The Company could not gain but might loose by the hearing of the Appeal in case the judgment should be affirmed.

Before the time for proceeding after the summer vacation of 1786 arrived the business was resolved to be taken up again in the House of Commons by way of criminal accusation against the Chief Justice, & this Proceeding has continued till the present time.

Several applications were made to the Respondents Solicitor to exchange Cases & proceed to hearing, but her case having been signed by a Counsel, who being a Member of the House of Commons doubted about the propriety of appearing in Council in the Cause & for this reason the Appellants Solicitor was requested to wait.

15th May last not being able to get the Cases exchanged, the Appellants Solicitor set the Cause down for hearing at the Sittings of the Committee of Council then expected.

27th May the Respondents Solicitor gave a notice of motion to dismiss the Appeal for want of prosecution within 5 years from 20th Jany. 1783, under a Bond alledged to have been given by the Company to procure & produce at Calcutta decree upon the Appeal within that time.

The Respondents Solicitor denied having at any time delayed or having been instrumental in delaying the appeal & the Court upon hearing the Motion resolved under the Bond given by the Company to dismiss the appeal.

Subsequent to this time the Letter of 26th June 1786 abovementioned from the Respondents Solicitor requesting the delay on their part was found to enshewing the same to the Lord President, his Lordship was pleased to stop the Report of dismissal, in order to hear the matter again when it is not to be doubted the Cause will be ordered to be heard.

With respect to not proceeding to hearing within 5 years, the Appellants Solicitor had no conception of its being necessary to do so he was wholly ignorant of any Bond being given for that purpose, & indeed thought it impossible that such a Bond could have been given the same not being required by the Act of Parliament, which is the only Authority under which the Governor General in Council acted in giving any Bond—and the Order of Court allowing the Appeal states the Bond as given merely for the performance of the Judgment in Case it should be affirmed.

However it turns out now that such a Bond was given by the Company altho the Solicitor knew nothing of it;—Mr Mansfield & Mr. Rous have been consulted upon it & are of opinion that the Bond in as much as it exceeds the Authority of the Act of Parliament is unwarranted & void & have recommended that in Case an action shall be brought upon the Bond in India, a special Plea shall be pleaded thereto, which has accordingly been prepared.

Therefore what further is to be done in the case is as soon as the Lords of the Council meet, to move & get the Cause heard & in the meantime to send instructions to India to defend the suit upon the Bond if any shall be brought.

E. I. Company And the said United Company of Merchants of at the suit of England Trading to the East Indies by their attorney Nauderah Begum come and defend the wrong and injury, when & c.a. and crave over of the said writing, obligation, and it is read to them in these words (that is to say) Know All Men by these presents that we the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, are held and firmly bound to Nauderah Baigum widow of Shawburz Beig Cawn in the penal sum of 523268 sicca Rupees of lawful Money of Bengal to be paid to the said Nauderah Baigum her Heirs, [.....] or assigns for which payment well and truly to be made, we do hereby bind ourselves, and our successors firmly by these presidents. In Witness where of the Honorable Warren Hastings Governor General, and Edward Wheeler and John Macpherson Esqr. Councillors [sic] of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal have subscribed their names and caused the common seal of the said United Company to be affixed this 12th day of August in the year of Christ 1782. They also crave over of the conditions of the said writing obligation. And it is read to them in these words that is to say Whereas the said Nauderah Baigum, did on the 3rd of February, which was in the year of Christ 1779 obtain a judgment in the Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal, in an action of tresspass vi[.....] et armis [sic] brought by her against Bahhadder Beig Hazee Sadhee Muftee, Berachtooleh and Muftee Gullaum Mackdoon & Damages for the sum of 300,000 sicca Rupees besides Costs of suit amounting to 9208 sicca Rupees and ten annas, the said damages and costs of suit making together the sum of these hundred and nine thousand two hundred and eight sicca Rupees and ten annas. And Whereas the said Nauderah, in or about the 5th day of March in the Year of Christ 1779, did sue out a Writ of [...] on the said judgement against

the lands debts and other effects real and personal of the said Behhahder Beig Kazee Sadhee Muftee Barrhtoolah and Muftee Gullaum Mackdoom, whereon the Sheriff on the 15th of June then next following returned that he had levied the effects real and personal of the said Behahder Beig Kazee Sadhee Muftee Barrach-toolah, and Muftee Gullaum Muchdoom to the amount of Rs. 17574-10a and Whereas, there doth now remain due and unpaid to the said Nauderah Baigum on the said judgment the sum of 281634 sicca Rupees And Whereas the said Bahhahder Beig Muftee Barrach-toolah & Muftee Gullaum Machdoom are now confined in the goal [sic] of Calcutta in the custody of the Sheriff the said action in the said Supreme Court. And Whereas by an Act passed in the 21st Year of the Reign of his present Majesty intituled an act of explain and amend so much of an Act made in the 13th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty intituled an Act for establishing certain Regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East India Company as well in India as on Europe as relates to the Administration of Justice in Bengal and for the relief of certain persons imprisoned at Calcutta in Bengal under a judgement of the Supreme Court of judicature and also for indemnifying the Governor General and Council of Bengal and all Officers who have acted under their Orders or authority in the undue resistance made to the process of the Supreme Court, "It is recited that, Whereas certain Natives of India residing at Patna by the names and descriptions of Mir Barrud Ullah & Gullam Mucdum, Men of the Law attendant on the provincial Council of Patna & a Native of Indostan Called Behader Beg were then and had been for upwards of 2 years imprisoned at Calcutta in execution for damages recovered against them in certain actions, in the said Supreme Court, and that Whereas through ignorance or other misapprehension of the Law the time during which an appeal might have been presented to his Majesty in the Privy Council had expired. It was by the said Act enacted that the said three persons should be forthwith discharged from the said imprisonment by the person or persons in whose custody they then were, or should be by virtue of the said executions in security being given for the damages recovered which security the Governor General & Council were and are thereby required to Cause to be given on their behalf and that it should be competent to appeal to His Majesty and Council against the aforesaid judgments which manner and to the same effect as if such appeal had been presented within the time for that purpose limited by the Charter (now the condition of this obligation is such that if the said Behhadero Beig Muftee Barrachtoolah & Muftee Gullaum Machdoom or either of them shall not before the expiration of six month's from the Date hereof by their humble petition to be preferred for that purpose to the said Supreme Court of judicature of Fort William in Bengal may leave to appeal to his Majesty his Heirs or successors in his or their Privy Council and state in such petition the causes of Appeal and pay any sum of money & perform any duty the said Supreme Court of judicature of Fort William in Bengal, shall direct, then if the said United Company or their successors shall well and truly pay to the said Nauderah Beigum her Heirs Exors [Executors] Admors [Administrators] or assigns the said sum of 261,634, sicca rupees this obligation to be void and of no effect, or if the said Bahhahder Beig

Muftee Barrachtollah and Muftee Gullaum Muchdoom or either of them shall on or before the expiration of six months from the date hereof by their humble Petition to be preferred for that purpose to the said Supreme Court of judicature of Fort William in Bengal pray leave to appeal to his Majesty his Heirs & successors in his or their Privy Council and state in such Petition the causes of appeal and pay any sum of money & perform any duty the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal, shall allow the said Appeal then if the said Behahder Beig Muftee Barrachtoolah and Muftee Gullaum Muchdoom or either of them or some person or persons in their behalf shall at or before the expiration of 5 years to commence from the day the said Supreme Court shall allow the said appeal produced in the said Supreme Court a judgment or Order of His Majesty his Heirs or successor in his or their Privy Council reversing the said judgment of the said Supreme Court. This obligation to be void and of no effect, or if at any period earlier than the space of 5 years from the day the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal shall allow the said Appeal the said Nauderah Baigum her Heirs Exors Admors [Executors] [Administrator] or assigns or any person authorized on her behalf by her or them shall [be] produced in the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal a judgment or order of his Majesty his Heirs or successors in his on their privy Council affirming the said judgment of the said Supreme Court then if the said United Company or their successors shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said Nauderah Baigum her Heirs, Exors, Admors or assigns the said sum of 262,634 sicca Rupees. This obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue which said writing obligation and the condition thereof being read and heard the said United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, say that the said Nauderah Baigum ought not to have or maintain her aforesaid action thereof against them because they say, that the said Behhahder Beig Muftee Barracktoolah & Muftee Gullaum Muckdoom did before the expiration of six months from the date of the said Writing obligation to wit on the [.....] day of [.....] in the year of our Lord 178 [.....] to wit at [.....] by their humble Petition preferred by them for that purpose to the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal may leave to appeal to His Majesty his Heirs or successors in his or their privy Council and did state in such Petition the Causes of Appeal and did pay such Sums of money and perform such duties as the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal did direct. And the said United Company of Merchants further say that the said Supreme Court of judicature at Fort William in Bengal did afterwards to wit on the 20th day of January in the year of our Lord 1783 to wit at [.....] allow the said appeals of the said Behahder Beig Muftee Barrachtoolah & Muftee Gullaum Mackdoom whereupon they the said Behhahder Beig Muftee Barrachtoolah & Muftee Gullaum Muchdoom did with all convenient diligence and dispatch, to wit on the [.....] day of [.....] prosecute and carry on their said Appeal to his Majesty in his Privy Council, and from thence hitherto have been, and now are prosecuting and carrying on their said Appeal with due dilligence and effect the same being still undetermined, and no judgment or order of his Majesty in his privy

Council, having yet been made therein, but the said Appeal is still depending before his Majesty in his privy Council to Wit at.

And this the said United Company of Merchants are ready to verify, whereof they pay judgment, if the said Nauderah Baigum ought to have or maintain her aforesaid action thereof against them. & c.a.

Gro. Rous.

Gro. Wood

The Company's Solicitor's report of the present state of the Appeal in the Patna Cause of Nauderah Begum against Behader Beg and others, with draft of a Plea on behalf of the Company, agreeable to Counsel's opinion in case an action shall be brought on the Bond.

25

LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1788

*English manufacturers producing muslins seek restrictions on Company's imports—Broach and Surat cotton to be exported to England—more attention to be paid to production of fine cotton goods—copper coins for Benkulen.*

Commercial Department

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para. 1. In our Letter of the first March 1783, We informed you the Cotton Manufacturers of this Country had undertaken the Fabrication of the Article of Muslins, with a View of entering into a competition with the Goods of a similar description introduced from India. We at the same time particularly called your attention to, and pointed out the absolute necessity of, using every Exertion in keeping up, and improving the Qualities of our Indian Piece Goods, as upon that, and that alone would ultimately depend our Hopes of preserving the Advantage hitherto derived from our Traffick in those Articles. You have since then by the Ravensworth on the 12th April 1786 been supplied with Samples of the different British Manufactures by which you will have perceived the very rapid improvement they have made. By the great Ingenuity and persevering Industry of the British Manufacturers, the Article of Muslins in the ordinary and midling Assortments is at length brought to that Degree of perfection that there is every reason to apprehend a sufficient Supply of the best Surat Cotton will enable them to meet the Indian White Piece Goods of the above Description in the foreign Markets; as the Duties and Freight on the Company's Importations have already enabled them to undersell us in the Markets at Home. At present the Manufacturers deem themselves so effectually competent to the Supply of the Ordinary Sorts, both Muslims and Callicoos

for Home Consumption that they have solicited of Government, the laying the Company's Trade therein under such Restrictions, as if carried into Effect would go in great Measure to weaken if not altogether destroy it so far as those Articles are concerned. The Subject is at present under Discussion of the Lords Commissirs. for Trade & c. and from it's popularity and the Support and Protection which the Government may think is due to the Home Manufacturers, the Company may eventually be required to make some Concessions.

2. The Several Papers in the Packet to which We refer you for more minute information will shew you the present Stage of the business, and We shall on some future occasion communicate to you the result; let the issue however be what it may, you would see with us the necessity of our repeating in the strongest manner possible our former Orders that the utmost attention be paid to the Manufacture of all our Piece Goods in general, but more particularly the Muslins of the finer Dacca assortments. We are convinced however successfully the Manufacturers may have limited the Goods of the lower descriptions, that they still will find it very difficult to combat the high estimation in which our fine Goods are held both at home and abroad, provided the proper attention is paid in the fabrication of them to preserve their superior reputation every requisite care and attention must be invariably applied. The Quality of the Raw Material must in the first instance be most particularly attended to, that being as essentially necessary as any of the succeeding efforts of labor which it undergoes in the process of its Manufacture. We therefore earnestly call your attention to the article of Cotton with a view to affording every encouragement to its growth and improvement in general but particularly to the species manufactured into the finer sort of Thread in use for the superior Goods of the Dacca fabric, as we learn that many of our Orders of those assortments have not been able to be executed for want of such fine Thread. It is in these fine assortments we more particularly wish our Investments to be extended because they yield the greatest profits and interfere the least with the Home Manufacturers.

3. You will perceive We have in compliance with the wishes of the Manufacturers come to the Resolution of importing 500,000 lbs. weight of Broach and Surat Cotton or Cotton of the produce of Bengal of a similar quality. You will therefore concert with our Servants at Bombay the means of carrying this Resolution into effect and furnish us with every needful information respecting the Article as to its growth Quality, Cost, the quantity which is capable of being procured for exportation, the Political and Commercial effects that would arise from such exportation and any other particulars you may deem it necessary we should be informed of, on receipt of which you will receive our further Instructions thereon.

4. In respect to the Articles pointed out by the Manufacturers in their Pamphlets as substitutes of Remittance in lieu of their proposed reduction in Piece Goods We wish you to take the subject under consideration and if there is a prospect of extending our trade

with any degree of advantage by the introduction of any such Articles (particularly Raw materials reference being had to our late Orders on the subject of Indigo) we would have the same carried into effect, as our views are not less the making our Trade interesting to the Nation at large than immediately beneficial to ourselves. A few Experiments may be necessary in order to ascertain this, which you will cause to be carried into execution acquainting us fully with your Sentiments and Observations on the subject.

5. We observe that our Deputy Governor and Council at Bencoolen on the 8 May 1786 in stating to you their difficulties for the want of Cash, requested that a Supply to the Amount of 10,000 Dollars may be sent them annually in Copper Coin it becomes necessary therefore to inform you that at a Subsequent period they made a Request to us for a Supply of the like Article stating the great conveniences that would be afforded them thereby. We in consequence took the necessary Measures for complying with their Request and were at a considerable Expence in erecting a Building for the execution of the same under our own immediate Inspection. In our Letter of the 21 July last Per Ranger you were informed we had allotted to send them 18 Tons as a Supply for the Season 1786 part of which was transmitted on that Vessel, a small part also had been previously sent them by the Francis and the Remainder has been since sent them on the Lord Hawkesbury. An additional 30 Tons has also been sent them by the Ships of the last Season and we were about to put in Execution a further Quantity to the Extent of 40 Tons to be transmitted by the Ships of the ensuing Season when we received Advice from them desiring that no further quantities might be sent until the receipt of their further Sentiments as they had received a large supply from Bengal and the article by no means received so quick a circulation as when the Settlement of Padang was in their possession<sup>1</sup>. As we are not able to ascertain how far you have complied with their Requisition, or whether the large Supply they speak of means the Quantity you sent them in 1783/4 Per Trial Van Sittart and Intelligence, We have put a stop to our works at home, 'till we have some further Intelligence on the Subject. We trust after our Dispatches by the Ranger shall have come to hand, you will have seen it unnecessary to take any subsequent measures in furtherance of their annual Indent to the Amount of 10,000 Dollars, which you had informed them should be complied with and we must direct that in any event you will withhold sending them any future quantities, as it is manifestly more for Our advantage in many points of view that their demand in this article should be supplied from this Country. We shall from time to time inform you what are their Indents in this particular as also how far the same are complied with.

6. We have entered into a very minute enquiry into the circumstances of Goods being returned from the Ganges, on account of the apparent incapacity of that Ship to receive them as noticed in the 4th paragraph of your Letter of the 6th March 1787, also respecting those returned from the Earl of Oxford; and We have taken into consideration, whether it might be proper to Charge to the Owners

the Freight of the deficient tonnage agreeably to the Clause in the Charterparties of those Ships.

7. It appears to Us on reference to the proceedings of the Board of Trade and examination of the Commanders of the above Ships, that no official information was given them of the Cargoes they were to have, till a very short time before the period fix'd for their dispatch for England; but that on their applications to the Export Warehouse Keeper on the Subject they were Verbally informed, that a very large part of the Tonnage of their Ships would be un-applied, this is particularly the case respecting the Ganges, as the Commander assures us that on his complaining of the loose manner in which the Bales were packed, the Warehouse Keeper informed him that he was not to have his Tonnage by 100 Tons, and therefore that the looseness of the Package was immaterial. With respect to the E. of Oxford, the Commander informs us that the Agent for Dispatch had particular Orders to give him dispatches by the 10 March the period fixed by Charterparty, and that the Goods in question did not come to the Ship till the 9th when the Ship was much lumbered, and the time would not admit of making any alteration in the stowage in order to receive them, and that his Dispatches were accordingly given him on the 9th.

8. According to the Letter of the Clause in Charterparty, the Owners of the above Ships are liable to the payment of Freight for all the deficient Tonnage, yet We have agreed not to insist on the said payment in consideration of the Commanders not having had sufficient notice given them of the Cargoes intended to be sent and their expectation that it was not intended to occupy the whole Tonnage for which their Ships were let in consequence whereof less attention might probably be paid to the Stowage of the Cargo, and several Articles of Private Trade were put in the Hold, which part of the Ship they would otherwise have reserved for the Company's Goods.

9. But though We are far from wishing to take advantage of the Owners by a literal construction of the Clause in Charterparty, especially in such cases as the above where the Commanders appear, if not to have been misled respecting the Cargoes proposed to be sent, at least not to have had sufficient information on the Subject given them in time; yet as the said Clause was intended to secure to Us the advantage of the full Tonnage for which We hire the Ships, We ought not to be precluded from this advantage by any omission or inattention which may furnish the Owners or Commanders with a plea of exemption from the charge. We do therefore require that the following rules be in future observed; unless very particular circumstances shall prevent (of which you will not fail to give Us every information necessary for Us to form a judgment thereof) vizt.

That as soon as possible after the arrival of any Ship at your Presidency, a Calculate of the Tonnage intended to be sent on board her be prepared, and a Copy thereof sent to the Commander; and

that the time when such Copy shall be sent to the Commander be reported to you, by the proper Officer, and noted on your Consultations:

That the Bales be well and closely packed, in all cases whether it be intended to lade the Charterparty Tonnage or not:

That as far as shall be in your power, a fair assortment of Goods be allotted for the Cargo of each Ship; this we are aware may very frequently be impracticable, and We only intend by this direction to prohibit any partiality with respect to the proportion of fine and coarse Goods.

That you give positive Orders that all the Goods may be dispatched from your Warehouse and arrive at the Ship in time to be received on board, and stowed away before the period fixed for giving the Commander his Sailing Orders.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

Nathl. Smith/Step : Lushington/  
Joseph Sparkes/John Travers/  
W. Bensley/George Tatem/Abram  
Robarts/Thos. Parry/T. Pattle  
Junr./Chas. Mills/John Roberts/  
Jacob Bosanquet/Jn : Townson/  
W. Elphinstone/Jas. Moffatt.

London,  
the 20th August 1788.  
Exd. J. S.

[Bengal Dispatches, vol. 18 pp. 677-701].

## LETTER DATED 25 SEPTEMBER 1788

*Immediate steps to be taken to meet financial difficulties of the Madras Presidency.*

### Public Department

OUR Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Para : 1. We are extremely sorry to learn by recent Advices from Madras that from the reduced state of the Finances of that Presidency, the Governor and Council were apprehensive they should either be obliged to lessen the Investment or draw Bills on us at the advanced rate of eight Shillings the Star Pagoda, in order to preserve the Investment in the hands of the Company.

2. Considering it as a matter of the first importance that the Company should not be disappointed in the Annual Receipt of an

Investment of Goods from Fort St. George to the Invoice Amount of £ 250,000, at the least, as well as to restore & preserve the Manufactures to their former value & standard; to which we are happy to find by the before mentioned Advices, they were advancing, we hereby direct that you take this subject into your immediate Consideration & should it not be practicable for you to afford the Madras Government in addition to their own Resources such assistance as will enable them to procure an Investment to the amount before specified we hereby authorize you to raise the deficiency by empowering our Servants at Madras to grant Bills on the Court of Directors at rate as near to 7s/ 6d the Pagoda as you can obtain; extending the rate to 8s/.—The Pagoda, if the Money cannot be procured on lower terms. The Mode of carrying our Orders into execution must be left to your own discretion after you shall have consulted the President & Council of Fort St. George upon the Subject.

3. And as it is our fixed determination to preserve the Coast Investment in the hands of the Company we direct that you endeavor to aid the Funds of Madras to enable them to procure an Investment of equal value in the succeeding Years, drawing or authorizing the Governor & Council to draw upon the Court of Directors for whatever Sum may be wanted for that purpose on as reasonable Terms as can be procured, not exceeding however the rate of 8s/—the Pagoda. Perhaps the least exceptionable mode of carrying these Orders into execution will be to cauze Advertizements to be issued both at Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay for Money to be paid into the Madras Treasure for Bills on the Court of Directors of not less than £ 500 each, and that the lowest Terms to the amount you may want be accepted taking care to keep from the Public that we have authorized You to extend the Rate to 8s/ the Pagoda in order to obtain more favorable terms if possible. But this is merely a suggestion which you will follow or not as you shall deem expedient. But whatever Sum shall be thus raised must be exclusively appropriated to the provision of a Fort St. George Investment, & not disposed of other wise on any account or pretence whatsoever.

We are

Your affectionate Friends

London,  
the 25th September 1788.

[Endorsement]  
(Triplicate)

Company's General Letter to Bengal.

Nathl. Smith/John Hunter/Abram  
Robarts/Step: Lushinstone/W.  
Smith/ W. Elphinstone/ W.  
Bensley/ Jas. Moffatt/ John  
Travers/Joseph Sparkes/ Robt.  
Thornton/Jacob Bosanquet/ John  
Roberts/W. Devaynes.

No. 2

Accompanying the Compys. Gen. Letter P. Melville Castle  
Dated 18th Feby.

## **LETTERS TO COURT**



## LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 1786

*State of the treasury.*

TO the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have now the Honor to dispatch to you the King George Captain Court with a Cargo, amounting to CRs. 12,87,1000 as per Invoice.

2. The Rodney with our Letter of the 31st Ultimo quitted her Pilot on the 14th Instant, Duplicate of that Letter goes herewith.

3. The Fox Packet will sail in a few days and convey to you our Proceedings in this Department, by her we shall write upon such points of Importance as have occurred since the Departure of the Rodney.

4. The state of the Treasury this day is as follows :—

Ready Money . . . . .	3,03,952 13 6
Bills receivable Sa. Rs. . . . . 5,00,000 . . . . .	5,80,000 0 0
Current Rupees . . . . .	8,83,952 13 6
Balance Account Deposits . . . . .	9,77,032 4 4
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court	1,16,918 3 3
Balance of the Old Bonded Debt <sup>1</sup> or on which the interest has ceased by Public advertisement	45,117 0 8
New Bonded Debt @ 8 Per cent . . . . .	1,57,28,836 11 2
4 per cent Remittance loan . . . . .	20,000 0 0
	<hr/> 1,68,87,895 3 5 <hr/>

Fort William

We have the honor to be &amp;c.

the 24th January 1786.

[Endorsement]

Per King George

Duplicate per the Dutton

[Compd. W. Stopford]

## LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1786

*Rice for Madras—Claud Russel's claim to seat in Madras Council—civil and military officers going on leave or retirement to England and consequent changes and promotions.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors & Ca.

Hon'ble Sirs,

[

1. Our Letter of the 24th ultimo, of which the enclosed is a Copy, was dispatched by the King George Captain Court, who quitted his Pilot on the 3rd Instant.

2. By the Dutton now under dispatch you will receive a Cargoe amounting as per invoice to Current Rupees 12,71,250 and the Proceedings in this Department for the Months of December and January with indexes.

3. From the Secret Department you will receive advices by the Fox Packet and as a Duplicate of this Letter will be transmitted to you by that vessel, we avail ourselves of the opportunity of recommending to your Notice and Patronage, Captain John Corner, his merits while in Command of the Rodney, have been made known to you by Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, and his good Conduct and attention during his last Voyage are acknowledged by your Commander in Chief who experienced them should therefore an occasion offer of employing Captain Corner in a more important station than that he now fills in your Service, we trust he will meet the reward from you which he so justly merits.

[4]. The President and Council of Fort St. George having often complained of the want of opportunities to transmit their advices to you and an offer having been made by Dr. Bengough to receive on Board his Snow the Eagle One thousand five hundred Bags of Saltpetre, and to convey to your Hon'ble Court our dispatches from hence and then from Fort St. George for the moderate Sum of fifteen thousand Sicca Rupees we accepted his tender and ordered a charter Party to be made out of which the enclosed is a Copy.

5. Our principal object for adopting this measure was that of affording the Presidency of Fort St. George the means of communicating to you the transactions of that Government to as late a Period as possible, and particularly to acquaint your Hon'ble Court, of their measures in consequence of our arrangements for the discharge of their Military arrears which we trust you will approve.

6. Having received a letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George stating that their Garrison stock of Grain was much reduced and desiring, as it might not easily be in their power to complete their Store, that we would send them as early as possible, a supply of Thirty to Forty thousand Bags of Rice;

•Consn 5th Decem.  
& 9th Jany.

we resolved to comply with their request; and in consequence of the recommendation from the Governor Mr. Davidson; written at the desire of his Council in favour of Mr. Hugh Boyd, and in full confidence of the ability of this Gentlemen to furnish this supply, under the responsibility he owes to the Presidency of Fort St. George; we accepted his offer of providing it by Agency; and accordingly issued advances sufficient to enable him to purchase, and defray the charges attending the transportation of Thirty thousand bags, referring him to the Presidency under which he acts for such allowance for Agency, or Commission, as the President & Council shall consider him entitled to.

7. In the Consultation noted in the Margin, there is recorded a Letter from the Gentlemen of Fort St. George, relative to the claims of succession to a Seat in their Council in case of Vacancy, together with the Proceedings of the President and Council thereon, with their Resolution, that Mr. Claud Russell is the Servant by act of Parliament Eligible to the Board in case of vacancy &ca. We replied to the reference, by informing the President and Council that, we considered their Government competent to decide this question, and that we saw no reason to disapprove of their resolution on it which had been communicated to us.

Consn 12th Decr

8. We received some time ago, a reference from Bombay respecting two prosecutions which had been commenced against the administration of that Presidency in the Mayors Court for the amount of Company's bonds; these references we immediately laid before your Advocate General, who has given a full opinion upon them, to which we request your particular attention, and to the plan pointed out to you in the 29th Paragraph of our Letter under date 25th October Per Intelligence.

9. We beg leave to inform you that Captain Markwood, as administrator to the Estate of the late Captain William Patton, from a mistaken idea of the four Per cent remittance loan had transmitted to England, in Triplicate, a bond No. 180 granted to him on this Loan, and that bills of exchange had hitherto been issued, as the Bond ought to be returned on the delivery of the Bills now granted for the fifth or last proportion, we are to apprise you of the transaction that the Bond may be cancelled and delivered up prior to payment of the Bills of Exchange now granted in liquidation of it.

Vide Acct Genl's Letter Consn 12th Decr

10. The conditional bonds issued to Mr. Dacres when President of the Board of Trade have according to your command, been demanded, given up; and cancelled.

11. And the additional allowances granted to the Advocate General, under the express condition that he would refund the amount if ordered by you, have been paid into the Treasury.

12. We acquainted you in the 35th Paragraph of our advices bearing date the 31st December 1785, that we had granted leave of

absence to Mr. Richard Tilghman, and allowed him in common with other Gentlemen, the subsistence annexed to his rank in the Company's Service. He proceeded to Europe in the Francis. The ill state of Mr. Tilghman's health made it necessary for him to return to England, but he returned with a hope, that a change of Climate would so operate to his recovery, as to enable him to come back to Bengal. Whether we consider the high Esteem in which the abilities of this Gentleman are held as a Barrister at Law, or whether we consider his private Character, and the Conduct in your Service since he was admitted to it, we are no less concerned at the occasion of his leaving India, than induced to recommend him strongly to the favor of your Hon'ble Court, that he may benefit by it, if a re-establishment of his health should permit him to return to this Country.

13. Since our Letter Per Rodney, the following Civil Servants of this Establishment have solicited and obtained permission to retire to Europe on leave of absence for three years, on the subsistence annexed to their respective Ranks agreeably to the late Regulations.

Jany. 24th	J. B. Smith
do	Charls Wilkins
do	John Petrie
do	William Cator
do	William Webber
do	Ramsay Hannay
Decemr 28th	J. Wheler
Feby. 23rd	Peter Touchet

14. As some of the above Gentlemen have always served under the Board of Trade, and many of them in the Revenue line, you will from those Departments be apprized of their merits, but we cannot pass over this opportunity of expressing to your Hon'ble Court that we entertain a high sense of the qualifications of Mr. John Petrie who has served the Company in Civil and Military Capacities for more than twenty years, and knowing as We do, that this Gentleman possesses abilities equal to any Station in your service, We recommend him to your attention and favor.

15. We also beg leave to introduce to your Notice, Mr. Ramsay Hannay a very deserving Servant of the Hon'ble Company.

16. The Reverend Mr. Pemberton having resigned the Station of Chaplain to the Garrison of Fort William, we immediately appointed the Reverend John Owen in his stead, in conformity to your Commands.

17. Mr. Wilkins<sup>1</sup>, some of whose literary productions have already been represented to your Hon'ble Court, has also obtained our permission to retire to Europe for the Space of three years.—We understand that this Gentleman's intentions are to return hither as speedily as possible, after having supplied himself with such Materials, and Assistance in Europe, for the prosecution of his extensive

researches into Oriental literature as will enable him to proceed to the Completion of his Design. Whether we consider Mr. Wilkins in the Light of a Servant of the Company, or as a Gentleman possessing an uncommon Genius, He equally deserves our recommendation to your favorable notice.

18. Mr. Claud Alexander having requested & obtained our Permission to resign his Post of Military Pay-Master General delivered over Charge of that Office on the first of December to Mr. Henchman who we appointed and now proceeds to England on leave of absence for three years a Passenger in the Dutton.

19. This Gentleman came into the Company's Service in the year 1772 was immediately appointed an Assistant in the Accountant General's Office where he remained near two years, he was then placed under Colonel Mc. Lean who came to Bengal with the express appointment of Commissary General, and served in that Office, until he became Commissary General, from this Station he was requested to accept the appointment of Military Pay Master General which he did and has acted as such since the year 1779.

20. The Merits of Mr. Alexander while only an Assistant in the Accomptant General's Office are well known to one of the Members of your Hon'ble Court under whom he had the honor to serve. His abilities and his integrity, while Commissary General pointed him out as a fit Person to correct the inaccuracies that had crept into the Military Pay Master General's Department and to arrange and new[sic] modify the Duties of the different Pay Masters' which he effected to the Satisfaction of your Government.

21. Mr. Alexander is not only entitled to every Mark of Approbation from your Hon'ble Court for his long Services and unwearied Zeal, but for the aid he has afforded this Government in conjunction with the Commissary General in forming a new Code of Regulations by which the detail of business in the great Offices of Military Disbursement, and that of check of your Military Accounts have been simplified, and we beg leave to recommend him as a Gentleman deserving every mark of attention and favor from the Hon'ble Company.

22. We transmit you a Number in this Packet, Copy of an address from Mr. John Murray our Commissary General. This Letter contains various important Matters, highly deserving your attention.

23. Our Sense of Captain Murray's Services to the Company, our knowledge of his great abilities & of his unwearied Zeal, and Integrity, induced us to recommend him in the most particular manner to your notice. It is but doing Justice to his merits to say that from the appointment of Deputy Judge Advocate to that of Secretary and Accountant to the Ordnance Department and thence to the laborious Office of Commissary General, he has obtained the approbation of the administrations under which he has acted.—In this latter Employ your Hon'ble Court are already more particularly apprized of his Services, and we doubt not you are fully sensible of the arduous Task he has executed with unremitted assiduity during the late War,

in which Armies from this Presidency were employed in the remotest parts of India. We also consider ourselves much indebted to him for his assistance in the compilation of new Regulations which are particularly adopted for Military check and future controul with contingency of War and consequently of permanent advantage to the Company and the Public.

24. These Regulations have already been transmitted to you & the attention of your Commander in Chief is continually bent upon making it more perfect, but that point is only to be attained through your aid and support. We therefore trust that it will be given and are happy in being able to recommend Mr. Alexander and Captain Murray whose local knowledge and experience completely qualify them for affording you every assistance, & every information you may require.

25. Major General Campbell one of His Majesty's Officers who served in the Carnatic during the War came to this settlement in order to procure a passage to Europe. Soon after the General's arrival he addressed a Letter to us stating that he had not been paid by the Government of Fort St. George all those allowances to which he deemed himself entitled, and solicited us, to issue, the Pay and Batta which he thought he had a just claim to—We informed him that we did not deem ourselves authorized to comply with his request but that his claim should be communicated to your Hon'ble Court and we beg leave to solicit your particular attention to it. We need not inform you that General Campbell is an Officer highly deserving the Company's favor having for some time commanded His Majesty's Troops in the Carnatic at a period of great difficulty much to the satisfaction of the Governor of Fort St. George.

26. The Number of Passengers going Home this Season and the consequent crowded state of the Company's Ships, made it extremely difficult for Generals Campbell and Ogle to be accommodated with Passages with any degree of convenience to themselves. We were therefore induced to allow these Officers the same Sum for finding their own passage to Europe as was paid to Captain Abercrombie last year for the accommodation of Colonel Gordon, they proceed on Foreign Vessels.

27. The following Officers have solicited and obtained our leave of absence for three years upon their full Pay to be received in Bengal Vizt.

Consn.	9th Jany.	Major E, Roberts
	"	Lieutenants Burrow
	"	" C. Robinson
	24th Jany.	" J. Lennox
	3rd Feby.	" G. Heard
	"	" M. Symes
	24th Jany.	Lieutenant Fireworkers B. Boyce

24th Jany.	Lieutenants R. Sands
„	„ A. Briggs
16th	Ensign J. W. Howard
9th	„ W. Franklyn
16th	Surgeon W. Walker
„	Assistant Surgeon A. Russell
3rd Feby.	B. Hartley
16th Jany.	G. Grant.

some of these Gentlemen proceed to Europe on Foreign Vessels and others by the Company's Ships as will appear by the List of Passengers.

28. The Foreign Ship on which Captain W. N. Cameron who was permitted to retire on leave of absence in Consn. 27th September embarked, having met with an accident which defeated that Gentleman's intention of proceeding to Europe he addressed us requesting to be restored to his former Station on this Establishment which we readily granted in the consultation noted in the Margin.

29. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watson your Chief Engineer having requested permission to resign the Hon'ble My. Consn 16th Jan. Company's Service we granted his request & promoted Major Lewis Mestayer the Officer in the Engineer Corps next to Colonel Watson to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed him Chief Engineer, we have also filled the vacancy occasioned by this appointment by promoting Captain Thomas Call to the rank of Major.

30. In the consultation noted in the Margin, you will observe an application from Mrs Bradford Widow of the late Consn 3rd Feb. Captain Cornelius Bradford of this Establishment to be admitted to such benefits from the Military fund, as the Rank of her late husband, should entitle her to.—In this we have thought proper to acquiesce, on her taking the prescribed Oath of Qualification; We understand, Mrs Bradford proceeds to Europe in a foreign Ship.

31. You have already been advised of Sir John Day's intention to return to Europe this Season, he accordingly took Consn 16th Jan. his passage in a Danish Ship and left Bengal early in January. In consequence of this Event we received an address from Mr. William Dunkin one of the Advocates in the Supreme Court of Judicature, offering to execute the Duties of Advocate General "during the absence or until the return of Sir John Day" and claiming that office as Senior at the Bar here of those who have entered into covenants with the Company, previous to the grant of your permission to practise in the Supreme Court; and alledging that the Gentlemen of the

Bar in Bengal, are considered in England to be comprehended in the provision of the last Act of Parliament which regulates the succession to office. He also grounded his pretensions to it, as well on the Priority of his Covenants, as his Seniority at the Bar.

32. In the same Consultation you will find recorded the pretensions to this Office of Mr. T. H. Davies, who has  
 Consn 16th Jan. served the Hon'ble Company as their Senior Counsel for many years, had led all their causes in the Supreme Court of Judicature, and discharged his duty with Zeal, ability, and highly to the Satisfaction of this Government. As We thought it neither consistent with justice to Mr. Davies or with the Interest of the Company, to supercede one who had on all occasions acquitted himself to our satisfaction we did not hesitate to appoint him your Advocate General.

33. We also appointed Mr George Nesbitt Thompson, at that time your Junior Counsel, to the Office of Senior Counsel; and as the Resolution of your Hon'ble Court of the 28th of January 1784 expressive "of the extraordinary merit of the Hon'ble Lockart Gordon" stands upon our records, we deemed that Gentleman a proper person to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr Thompson's promotion and accordingly appointed him Junior Counsel.

34. These respective appointments are to remain in force until the pleasure of your Hon'ble Court shall be known, but as they did not pass unanimously we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings noted in the Margin\*.

35. State of the Treasury.

Dated 30 Janry 86\*

Fort William,

6 Feby. 1786.

[Endorsement]

Genl. Dept.

Per Dutton

Abstd C.B.

Entered

V.M.

## LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1786

THE Hon'ble the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Since writing our Letter of the 6th Instant we have had the Honor to receive a Copy of your Dispatches of the 15th September

\*Not given.

transmitted to us under the attestation of the President of Fort St. George.

2. We understand that the Packet with the Original Letter is coming in the Eliza Snow which is returning from Bussora and which was dispatched from hence in April last with a Packet for your Hon'ble Court.

3. We have lost no time in announcing to the Settlement at large the Purport of your Orders<sup>1</sup>; These Orders correspond with the Plan recommended by us for your adoption from our Secret Department in April last and we anticipate with the utmost satisfaction the good effects which your Orders cannot fail of producing in establishing your Credit, extending your Commerce and providing for the permanent Security of your Territorial Possessions in India—Collectively as a Government, and Individually as Members of it, we are fully impressed with a grateful sense of the Confidence you have reposed in us, and which you have so particularly expressed in your Letter. Nothing therefore shall be wanting on our parts to give force and Success to the wise and Extensive System of Commerce and Finance which you have resolved upon.

4. The moment the Indent referred to in your Letter arrives, we shall communicate it to your Board of Trade and We shall take every step in our power to accomplish the Provision of the Investment you have Ordered.

5. We consider ourselves as extremely fortunate in having anticipated your wishes relative to the great objects you have in view not only in the reductions of Expence which we have effected but in the General Plans and Regulations which have been long since Submitted to your approbation.

We have the honor to be &ca.

the 8th February 1786.

Compd.

W. Spopforde

[Per Dutton]

4

## LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1786

*Advertisement for investment by contract to be issued soon—resignations and promotions—John Scawen's representation re. position in Company's civil service.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors & Ca.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1.\* We have the pleasure to inform your Hon'ble Court that Captain West in the Dutton quitted his Pilot on the 17th instant.

\*Paragraphs not numbered in the original draft.

2. By that ship we had the Honor to transmit you our Broken set of Proceedings in this Department for the Months of December, and January, and our Letters of the 6th and 8th Instant of which the enclosed are Duplicates.

3. We have now the pleasure to dispatch the Deptford with a Cargoe amounting as Per Invoice to Curr. Rups. 9,21,022.

4. As our advices by the Dublin are to be finally closed in time to be delivered on board before the 10th of March the Charter Party period, We shall reserve a complete relation of our transactions in this Department during the Month of February till our Proceedings are ready to accompany it.

5. In the meantime, we beg leave to inform you that after a long correspondence with the Board of Trade on the Subject of your Orders contained in the 2nd Paragraph of your Letter of 23rd April 1784 respecting the provision of the Investment by Contract, that an Advertizement inviting proposals for it will in a few days, be issued by the Board of Trade.

6. Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Mestayer has addressed a Letter to us, thro' the Commander in Chief, representing his apprehensions that an infirm state of Health would prevent him from performing the weighty Duties of Chief Engineer, with that success, and credit which might be expected from him, and in consequence thereof, requested & obtained our Permission to resign the Hon'ble Company's Service. Lieutenant Colonel Mestayer now proceeds to Europe a Passenger in the Deptford.

7. The Post of Chief Engineer being thus vacant we conferred that appointment upon Major Call the Senior Officer in the Engineer Corps and promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. We have also promoted Captain Mackwood to the Rank of Major of Engineers.

8. Captain Andrew Hearsey & Lieutenant John Harvey proceed to England on the Deptford on leave of absence for three years their full Pay to be received in Bengal.

9. We informed you in the [...] Paragraph of our Letter Per Rodney that Major Metcalfe had requested our Permission to resign the Office of Military Store Keeper and that we had, at the recommendation of the Commander in Chief, nominated Captain John Collins his successor who accordingly received charge of that office.

10. Major Metcalfe's Letter recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin will explain a deviation that had taken place from your Commands respecting the pay of a Major of Infantry which was issued to him during the period he held the Office of Military Store Keeper; altho' his representation, that former Military Store Keepers drew a greater establishment than the amount he received on account of his Pay is strictly just, we did not think it necessary to make the alteration he proposed, but as

Consq 27 Feby.

Major Metcalfe's conduct in office has been very satisfactory to us, and merits our entire approbation, We beg leave to introduce him to your particular Notice, and attention; he proceeds to Europe a Passenger in the Deptford on leave of absence for three years to commence from the time that Ship quits her Pilot.

11. We transmit to you enclosed a copy of a Letter addressed to us by Mr John Scawen, who was appointed by your Cons<sup>g</sup> 10 Jany. Order of 17th May 1780 (Paragraph Second) to be an "Assistant in the Commissary General's Office, and to receive Captain's Pay and Emoluments in that Station, and in case of vacancy in the said Office by the Death, Promotion, or Removal of the Commissary General or Deputy Commissary to succeed to the Office of Deputy Commissary General with the usual allowances, and also to the Office of Commissary General when the same should become vacant and he should be entitled thereto by regular Succession."

12. Scawen's application went to three Points, the first was whether he was or was not to be considered as a Covenanted Servant of the Company, the Second whether he was to rise in the Service, and the third whether he was or was not eligible to any other appointment than that to which he was specifically nominated by your Hon'ble Court. He transmitted to us a Counterpart of his Covenants with the Company, and with it the Opinion of Mr William Dunkin, an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Judicature, which pointedly declares that Mr Scawen is from his Covenants retained in the Company's Service and that as their Servant here, he is eligible to any Office to which the Governor General and Council can appoint in India.

13. Mr Scawen has represented that the Salary given to him by his Covenants is that of a Senior Merchant,—that his Covenants are precisely similar to those of that Rank, that no restriction is inserted to bar his rising regularly with other Servants,—and that he was obliged to produce Sureties for the same Amount as he is informed is always required for a Senior Merchant. Mr Scawen has further observed that, had it been the Intention of the Honorable Court of Directors, that he should be confined to the Office of Commissary General solely he presumed that they would have entered into articles with him similar to those entered into with Mr Martin whom the Company were pleased to appoint Judge Advocate General and whose Covenants are merely applicable to that Office.

14. Mr Scawen's Covenants which he has laid before us, certainly declare that the Company have "*received and entertained him into their Service as Assistant to their Commissary General at Fort William in Bengal and to be Employed in all or any of the Traffick or Merchandizes business or Affairs in any place or places whatsoever between the Cape of Good Hope and the Streights of Magellan as the said Company or their Court of Directors for the time being or any thirteen or more of them or any by them authorized shall appoint at and for the Wages or Sum of Forty Pounds of lawfull Money of Great Britain by the year to commence from the time of his taking upon him the said Office again.*" Again the Covenants

declare that "if the said John Scawen shall rise to any Superior place or Office than what he is hereby employed in and appointed for he the said John Scawen performing the Covenants shall have and receive such wages as are usually paid to Officers in the like advanced Stations." And again in his Covenants prohibiting his Receipt of Presents there is the following Provision "for and in Consideration of what he is or shall be entitled to receive from the said Company in respect of the said Service or in respect of any other Station, Capacity, or Employment in which the said John Scawen may hereafter be employed."

15. These Extracts from Mr Scawens Covenants undoubtedly furnish strong Grounds of Presumption not only that he was appointed to the Service of the Company and to rise in it, but that he was eligible to any other Office beside that to which he was expressly nominated in Europe; but as your General Letter of the 17th May 1780, is silent on these Particulars, and as we could not take upon us to pronounce what your real intentions were, we are obliged to request your Decision on the Points which Mr Scawen has submitted to us. Your answer will determine what rank, if any, it was your Intention, that Mr Scawen should have in the Company's Service, whether he is to rise in it and from what Period, and whether he is or is not eligible to any Office besides that to which you were pleased to appoint him.

16. In Justice to Mr Scawen We think it proper to observe, that we have every reason to be satisfied with his Diligence and ability in the different Trusts in which he has been employed as well at the Presidency as at Lucknow.

17. You were informed in our Letter of the 6th Instant that the Commissary General Mr John Murray had solicited & obtained our permission to proceed to England on leave of absence and that Mr Scawen whom you had nominated to succeed to the Office of Commissary General had been accordingly appointed to it.

18. Since that period we have received a Letter from Mr Scawen requesting permission to proceed to Europe on leave of Absence for two Years, the state of his health duly certified, rendering change of climate necessary, and the situation of his family & private Affairs, requiring his presence in England. We have accordingly granted his request and directed Lieutenant George Robinson Deputy Commissary General to act as Commissary General and draw the allowances appertaining to that Office, until the pleasure of your Hon'ble Court shall be known.

19. We have also appointed Mr Henry Wilson, an able Assistant in the Commissary General's Office peculiarly conversant in the duties of it to act as Deputy Commissary General till further Orders.

20. You were acquainted by the Dutton that in Consequence of the crowded State of the Company's Ships we had issued to Major General Campbell & Major General Ogle the Sum of 4,000 Rupees to enable them to find their own Passages to Europe—General Campbell accordingly proceeded on a Danish Ship but we are sorry

to inform you that General Ogle departed this Life a few days before he was to embark on a Portuguese Ship bound to Lisbon.

21. Messrs William Young, David Burgess, Stephen Bayard, and Charles Chapman of our Civil Establishment have obtained our Permission to return to Europe on Leave of Absence for three years, the three last Gentlemen upon the Subsistance allowed to their respective ranks in the Service.

22. On the Subject of the Subsistance granted to Civil Servants who have leave to go home, as well as the Pay of Military Officers on Leave of Absence we propose to give you our Sentiments fully by a Subsequent Dispatch.—These will convince you that our Resolutions of 27th January & 19th August 1785 were founded in Oeconomy & our Desire to adopt every measure that had a direct, or eventual Tendency to lessen your Disbursements in every line of the Service. It will rest with your Hon'ble Court to adopt any Measures which you may think necessary consistent with the original Spirit of the Engagements into which we have entered to make them effectual on a general Principle of Reform.

23. The State of the Treasury this Day is as follows :—

Ready Money . . . . .	11,58,905 2 9
Bills receivable, Sa. Rs. 647,981—10—6 . . . . .	7,51,658 11 6
Current Rupees . . . . .	19,10,563 14 3
Balance account deposits . . . . .	8,04,517 10 9
Balance Account General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918 3 3
Balance of the Old Bonded debt, on which the interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117 0 8
New Bonded Debt at 8 per cent . . . . .	1,57,11,836 11 2
4 per cent Remittance laon . . . . .	20,000 0 0
	1,66,98,389 9 10

Fort William

We are &c

the 28th Feby. 1786.

P.S. We transmit you a Number in the Packet an Address from Mr. Leonard Collings.

[Endorsement]

Genl. 1786 Dept. General Letter Deptford

Dated 28th Feby.

abst C.B. Entered O.G. Entered V.M.

## LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1786

*Reasons for small investments from India—Boyce's discovery for improving indigo manufacture—canal from Rupnarain river to Haldi Nala made navigable—subpoena against the G.G. and the members of the Council—Rev. Johnson's house purchased for use of government offices—Lt. Col. Thomas Call's General Map of India—rates of payment for carrying dispatches to be settled in advance.*

**T**O the Hon'ble Court of Directors & ca.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have now the honor of addressing you P Dublin and of forwarding our proceedings in this Department for the Month of February with Index.

2. By the Ships dispatched to you, in the course of this Season, you will receive Goods to the following amount Vizt.

	C. Rs.
The Francis carried from Bengal as P Invoice . . . . .	7,25,790
Rodney . . . . .	14,09,400
King George . . . . .	12,87,100
Dutton . . . . .	12,71,250
Deptford . . . . .	9,21,022
Dublin . . . . .	9,89,000
Making in all . . . . .	<hr/> C Rs. 67,03,562 <hr/>

exclusive of fifteen hundred Bags of Salt Petre shipped on the Eagle Packet and the Salt Petre and Red wood on Board the Winterton the amount of which we do not yet know.

3. Convinced as we are that large and well provided Investments from India can alone extricate the Hon'ble Company from its embarrassments in England we lament the disappointment you must experience by so small a Sum as C.Rs. 67,03,562 being the total of our Consignments this Season, We beg leave in consequence of the expectations we give you of a much larger amount, to quote the following Paragraph from the Board of Trade's Letter of the 8th July, last on which we grounded these expectations.

"By the same rule of Estimation (that is 13,00,000 for each Cargoe) with the additional aid of an Order on your Treasury bearing Interest at 8 P. Cent for thirty three Lacs, we should be able to complete the loading of the Seven Ships expected this Season, and provided we now obtain that Order, should hope to effect this purpose,

so that those Ships might be all Dispatched for England by the close of February next a Surplus would afterwards remain but by no means equal to a Cargo."

4. Orders on our Treasury for more than the amount of CRs. 33,00,000 above desired were issued to the Board of Trade and we venture to declare that every measure within the compass of our ability has been taken to send back all your Ships with full Cargoes and within the proper period of dispatch, so anxious were we upon this subject that you will find in the perusal of our correspondence with the Board of Trade that positive Engagements were obtained from them to complete the Cargoes of all your Ships—that it was under these Engagements our Advances were made to them and that these have been to an amount scarcely warranted by the Situation of our Finances. It rests with the Board of Trade to satisfy you in assigning the Causes which have prevented the fulfilment of their promises to us, our refusal to grant Tuncaws on the Collectors beyond a certain Sum and the loss sustained by Mr. Law (who had Contracted for the Dacca Investment) thro' the misconduct of Mr. Killiran will appear by the Letters from the Board of Trade to have occasioned the Deficiency, in their letter to us which we have quoted they tell us to expect seven

	Cargoes at . . . . .	13,00,000
*Q. 1.	each, that is Goods to the amount of . . . .	91,00,000
23,96,		
438	By the Invoices there appears only . . . . .	67,03,562
	being Current Rupees . . . . .	22,96,438*
	short of their Promises.	

5. As we wish not to impute to the Board of Trade any blame in the performance of their duty to you, nor to take any merit to ourselves that is not warranted from facts stated upon record we shall transmit to you by the Winterton all the correspondence that has passed between them and us on the Subject of your Investment in the Order in which it took Place during the last twelve Months. The difficulties of realizing long outstanding Balances, and of providing an Investment without immediate Issues of Cash and of the Prices to which the goods have been reduced they have a right to State.

6. The difficulties we have had to contend with in bringing forward your Orders for providing the Investment by Public advertizement and under Sealed Proposals. The Exertions we have made to send your Cargoes without drawing Bills to distress your Credit at home and our Efforts to realize the Balances of former Investments and to bring the regular Provision of the Goods to the proper Season cannot but convince your Hon'ble Court that nothing has been left undone by us that zeal or attention could perform in this Branch of your Service.

7. In the Consultation noted in the Margin the Governor General Cons<sup>n</sup>. 20 Feby. laid before the Board, a Correspondence which had

passed between him and Mr Boyce relative to an important discovery which that Gentleman had made in the improvement of the Manufacture of Indigo.

8. Mr Boyce having attended the Board and having explained to us the Importance of his Discovery which appeared verified by the Samples of Indigo he had made and which he laid before us, we took into Consideration your instructions upon the Subject of Indigo in your Letter of the 11th April 1785 we accordingly desired Mr Boyce to specify such Samples of the quality of Indigo which he could deliver at Sa. Rs. 5-8 Pr. Factory Seer (the rate at which he said he could furnish it) with a Report of the quantity he would engage to deliver, and a more particular explanation of the Engagements he was willing to enter into.

9. With this requisition he complied, his Letter is recorded in the Consultation of the 28th February with our Resolutions thereon, by which you will perceive we have allowed him a Salary of 400 Sa. Rs. Pr. Month as a maintenance and as a reward for his Labors half the net Profits, on the States of all the Indigo he shall make during a period of ten years. This Agreement is however subject to the revocation of your Hon'ble Court at any period you may choose to revoke it.

10. When we consider the great importance the article in question is of to the Commercial Interest of the Company and indeed to that of the Nation at large we trust that our measures in this endeavour to establish it's superiority will meet your approbation nothing can be more fair than Mr Boyce's Proposition: He seeks no reward but inproportion as the Company is benefited. He can, he says make Indigo to any degree of Purity weight & Colour that the Company wish and he is only anxious to preserve the benefits of his discovery to the Company and to connect with their Profits his own Reward. He observes that the soil, the water and the Climate of these Provinces are peculiarly calculated to produce Indigo, and that with these advantages the Superior cheapness of labour in Bengal must give the Company an absolute Command Eventually in this great Branch of Commerce.

11. We cannot, as far as We are Judges of Mr Boyce's Samples of Indigo, but admit its Superiority, in Colour and extreme purity, It is much lighter than any We have yet seen, and infinitely Superior to those Samples sent out by your Hon'ble Court.

12. Samples of Mr Boyce's Indigo are sent in this Packet and we earnestly request your attention to the subject. It will open, if we can depend on Mr Boyce's opinion a new Field of Wealth to the Company. He requests that his Specimens of Indigo may be examined with every care, and that specimens of all the Indigo made in South America St Domingo, and Caroline and the Prices each kind can fetch in the market may be sent out—and that a standard by which the Company would wish their Indigo to be made may be established and likewise that the Company may secure to their own Commerce the benefit of his Discovery. We send Mr Boyce's Letters

and the Governor General's answer to his first application and the Resolutions of the Board Numbers in this Packet.

13. Mr Page Keble has addressed a Letter to us setting forth the great expence he had incurred in rendering Navigable a Canal for the Passage of Boats from the Roopnarain River to the Halda Nulla and requesting in consideration of the great Public utility of this Work, and his earnest desire of visiting his Native Country, after having spent nearly forty years of his Life, in the service of the Company, that we would purchase the Canal on account of our Employers : or afford him, other assistance pointed out in his address, we referred his Plan for selling the Nullah to the Company to Mr. Vansittart Comptroller of Salt for his opinion on the expediency of making the purchase and altho' his sentiments on its utility and convenience to Merchants and particularly those trading in Salt are very favourable, yet, we did not deem it expedient to purchase it. We have however in Consideration of the length of Service and situation of Mr. Keble been induced to grant him a loan in Company's Paper of 40,000 Sicca Rupees to bear interest at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Per Cent per annum for ten Years on his giving Personal Security for the due Payment of the same and assigning as Collateral Security the whole and every part of the Canal with every thing appertaining thereto to the Hon'ble Company :—

14. Mr Keble in a subsequent Letter returned us his acknowledgements for this mark of favor and expressed the Gratitude he felt for the various obligations he had received from the Company, and soon after resigned your Service & proceeded to Europe in a Foreign Ship.

15. Mr Joseph Price has in consequence of your Orders of 25th January 1782, been appointed to the Offices of Marine Pay Master & Naval Store Keeper.

16. In the Consultation noted in the Margin you will observe a report from the Governor General that he had received a Subpoena addressed to him, Robert Sloper Esqr. and John Stables Esqr. commanding their Personal appearance before the Supreme Court of Judicature immediately to answer concerning those things which shall then be objected to by William Atkinson Esqr. a Civil Servant upon this Establishment.

17. This Subpoena was enclosed in a Letter from an Attorney at Law which is recorded at length on our Proceedings and with it a paper for the Governor General to sign acknowledging his receipt of the Subpoena from which it appeared that an action in Equity had been commenced by Mr. William Atkinson against the Governor General and Members of Council, Major Metcalfe and Captain John Collins. Each Member of the Board individually received similar subpoena. It seems this action was commenced in consequence of Mr Atkinson not having been appointed to the Office of Military Storekeeper vacated by the resignation of Major Metcalfe.

18. We immediately called upon the Advocate General to give his opinion on the steps which ought to be pursued in vindication of the Dignity of Government, without offering any violation to the regular course of Justice, by the Members of this Government either collectively, or Severally in the present Instance, and according to the advice contained in His Opinion to which we refer, we directed, the Company's Attorney to obtain a Copy of the Bill of Complaint, we further resolved if it should appear to be founded on any act, or acts, done by us in a Public Capacity, that the Company's Law Officers should apply to the Supreme Court to Supercede the writs of Subpoena as having exercised improvidently.

19. Although Mr Atkinson has withdrawn the action we cannot but request your attention to the stile of the Attorney's Letter, to the Members of the Government. The mode of serving the Subpoena, and the peculiarity of the action, and of desiring your fullest instructions by which we care to act in case of Similar conduct in any of the Company's Servants.

20. We are sorry to inform your Hon'ble Court that Mr George Cumming has been compelled by extreme ill-Health to solicit our permission to resign his late appointment to the Office of Judge of the Dewannee Adawlut at Burdwan and to request our Consent to his return to Europe on the Dublin with the usual allowance of Subsistence granted to Servants retiring in Similar Situations we granted our consent to his request with much concern at the causes which deprive us of the Services of this Gentleman and as he has conducted himself much to our satisfaction in his late Collectorship at Ramgur we cannot withhold from him this Testimony of our approbation by introducing him to your notice and favor. This is the second time that under the pressure of the same disorder he has been obliged to return to Europe to escape the Effects of a climate which is hostile to his Constitution.

21. Taking into consideration the expence of Office rent and the advantage which the Public Service would derive from the duties of the principal Offices of Government being Conducted under one roof and within the immediate Inspection of Government We were induced to accept an offer made to us by the Reverend William Johnson of his large house, lately occupied by your Commander in Chief & adjoining to the Council House, we accordingly purchased it for the Sum of Sa. Rs. 90,000 payable in certificates upon your Treasury bearing Interest from the day we received Possession.

22. The Public Offices of Government which are in consequence removed to this house are the Military Pay Master Generals, the Commissary Generals, the Adjutant Generals, the Accountant Generals, the Accountant General to the Revenue Department, the Civil Pay Masters, and the Persian Interpreters and the Office of the Secretary to the Commander in Chief.—The saving that will accrue to the Company from this measure We doubt not will secure to us your approbation, particularly when we assure you that independent of the Public advantage of having these offices together, We could not construct similar Accommodations for your Public Offices for Double the amount paid for Mr Johnson's House.

23. In the 72d Paragraph of our Letter by the Intelligence we communicated to you the Steps we had taken in consequence of your Orders of the 9th December 1784 which directed us to furnish you with Copies of all the Maps and Plans in our Possession, and the necessity we were under of forbearing to carry your Commands fully into Execution, from the great expence that would attend such a work.

24. Lieutenant Colonel Call has lately addressed Sundry Letters to us signifying the completion of his General Map of India, and the propriety of our permitting the Surveyor General, to make a fair Copy of it in 12 or 14 Sheets on the present scale of about four Inches to a Degree, to be hung up in the Council room for Constant reference, and likewise the expediency of making reduced Copies on one Sheet, for the use of each of the Members of the Board.

25. The great labor and expence at which this Map has been composed, the great utility which may be derived from the Geographical Information it contains, and the merit of Lieutenant Colonel Call in Collecting and arranging the numerous surveys from which it is formed, cannot be so well made known to your Hon'ble Court as by a View of the Work itself; We have therefore authorized our Surveyor General to prepare the Copies recommended by Lieutenant Colonel Call and are in hopes that we shall have one upon the large Scale of 4 Inches to a degree, prepared ready to be transmitted to your Hon'ble Court by an early Ship of the ensuing Season.

26. Lieutenant Colonel Call having in consideration of the Completion of his Map of India, and his desire to attend more to the Duties of his profession as an Engineer than his Office of Surveyor General would permit him, requested to resign his Station of Surveyor General, We acquiesced in his desire, and have appointed Major Markwood to that Office, We have likewise allowed Lieutenant Wilford of the Engineer Corps a Salary of Rupees 250 Per month as a Mark of our approbation for the great assistance he has afforded Lieutenant Colonel Call, in the formation of his Map, and to ensure the continuance of his aid, and labors, in the preparations of the Copies which we have authorized to be made. Lt. Wilford is a man of Superior merit in his line & deserves every encouragement.

27. Captain Thomas Brown of the Engineer Corps having represented that he was desired by the late Governor-General in the latter end of the year 1784 to make Plans of the City of Benares including part of Ramnaghur, on a large Scale, and another Plan, on Smaller Scale, of the City and its environs including the Patch Coss, transmitted these Surveys to us, on the 26th Instant with a request, that We would defray the expence he had incurred in the execution of them, Vizt. 8000 Rupees. We did not think proper to comply with his request but in consideration of the merit of this work made him a Compensation for his trouble of 3000 Sa. Rs. Captain Brown proceeds to England on the Dublin on Furlough and will have the honor of laying before you a Copy of his Plans.

28. On the 30th August 1779 your late Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote stated to the Board the Justice

of making a Provision for the Sons of the Officers who have lost their lives in your Service without leaving effects equal to the support and maintenance of their Families, and proposed that such Children should be appointed Minor Cadets, the Commander in Chief at the same time recommended for that provision John and Thomas Fortnom

Consn 30 Augt      Sons of late Colonel Fortnom (who died during the March of our Detachment across the Peninsula of India) They were accordingly appointed.

29. We understand these Children have been educated at the most eminent Military Academy in England at an Expence which has considerably exceeded their Share of the relick of Their Fathers Estate which is only £ 4,500 to be equally divided amongst four Girls and two Boys, and as the Money is locked up in Chancery, they cannot derive any benefit from it, till they come of age;—Their Mother, now destitute of the means of advancing any further Sum for their Education, by the recent loss of her Husband, Lieutenant Colonel Harris, has entreated us to solicit your Hon'ble Court to grant her Sons permission to join your Army as Minor Cadets & as We consider this case as deserving the Compassion of your Hon'ble Court We are hopefull that you will comply with Mr. Harris's solicitation.

30. Soon after the departure of Major General Stibbert We received a Letter from Colonel Ironside setting forth  
Consn 30 Jany      that he apprehended, the Office of Provincial Commander in Chief, devolved upon him the eldest Colonel upon this establishment; and Soliciting that We would appoint him to that station with the rank of Major General of the Company's Forces in Bengal, to the Letter recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin We particularly refer you, for the various reasons on which he grounds this Claim.

31. When Colonel Ironside wrote this Letter your restrictive Orders contained in the 27th and 28th Paragraphs of your Letter of the 11th April, had not been issued to the Army, from motives of delicacy to General Stibbert, who was about to leave India. We therefore informed the Colonel that altho' we should be pleased with an opportunity of marking our sense of his merits as an Officer, and our Approbation of his long Services by Complying with his wishes, your Commands precluded us.

32. We however published in General Orders that Colonel Gilbert Ironside was the next in Command of the Company's Troops in Bengal to the Commander in Chief, in India, and therefore entitled to the allowance of 8,000 Rupees Pr. annum which your Hon'ble Court had fixed for the Officer in that Station.

33. Colonel Ironside has since informed us that as we were precluded from granting him the Rank and Station in Bengal which he solicited nothing further remained  
Consn 13 Feby      for him to do than to repose himself upon the Equity & generosity of the East India Company, and therefore requested our recommendation of his claim to your Hon'ble Court

which we beg leave to do.—The Colonel proceeds to England a Passenger in the Dublin upon leave of absence for three years, his full Pay to be received in Bengal.

34. Major Justly Hill of the Artillery has requested and obtained our permission to Return to Europe upon Furlough and full Pay to be received in Bengal conformable to our Regulations of the 19th August, and accordingly proceeds upon the Dublin.

35. Lieutenant Andrew Young an Officer of this Establishment recommended to your Hon'ble Court in the 20th Paragraph of your Letter of the 26th February 1785 as deserving the benefit of Lord Clive's fund, having been advanced by Mr Stephen Bayard Pay Master to the Bombay Detachment on the 20th October 1783 Bombay Rupees 1,000 and likewise by the Military Pay Master at Bombay a Similar sum of Bombay Rupees 1,000, was often called upon by Mr Alexander late our Military Pay Master General  
 Cons 27 Feby to repay the amount but constantly made excuses, and at last got his arrears discharged by his Pay Master. without liquidating this debt, which was not known 'till after Mr Young's departure.

36. Disapproving the Conduct of Mr. Young in not adjusting this debt previous to his return to Europe we transmit a Number in this Packet. the Original Receipts that Your Hon'ble Court may adopt such measures as you may deem most expedient, for the recovery of their amount either by stopping Payment of his Pension, or otherwise.

37. In the Consultation noted in the Margin is recorded a Letter from Captain Mr Dermott complaining of the conduct of Captain Court in refusing to grant him suitable accommodations in the King George altho' he had agreed for his Passage in that Ship, had paid 2,000, Sicca Rupees for it, (more than double the Sum you allow) and had actually embarked; and requesting in consideration of the disappointment he had experienced, through the behaviour of Captain Court that we would permit him to return to his Duty in your army and Communicate the treatment he had received to your Hon'ble Court. We have accordingly granted his request, and we beg leave to solicit your attention to his representation.

38. Captain Robert Rayne has addressed a Letter to us setting forth that on March 1784 he procured the permission of your Hon'ble Court to proceed to his duty at this Presidency, by the route of Aleppo. and Bussorah; but being detained in London at the desire of Lord Sydney for the purpose of conveying hither the East India Bill, and other dispatches of consequence, was long prevented from commencing his Journey and did not arrive in Bengal untill the 13 February 1786. Captain Rayne in consequence of the detention he experienced for the public Service thinks himself entitled to the Pay and allowances of his rank from the month of October 1784 being the date of the arrival of the Cornwallis on which Ship he had taken his Passage

but was prevented from availing himself of that opportunity of coming to India on account of Lord Sydney's dispatches as above mentioned.

39. As your Letter of the 23rd April 1784 Paragraph 4 says that Captain Rayne proceeds overland at his own expence and as your recent Orders of the 8th July 1785 regulating the commencement of Pay to your Servants who return to their Duty in India preclude us from granting his request we informed him that in consideration of the circumstances set forth in his Letter we could only at present represent his situation to your Hon'ble Court.

40. Mr. Diego Talamas having represented to us the disappointments he experienced in not having received a compensation for his trouble in conveying a Packet overland to you during the War we took into Consideration your Orders on this Subject together with the Service he had performed and agreed to pay him the sum of Five thousand Sicca Rupees in addition to the sums he had previously received and on condition of his granting a Receipt in full of all demands on the Company.

41. After the many references we have been compelled to make to you on the Claims of Persons who deem themselves entitled to large pecuniary rewards for bringing out Dispatches to India.—We cannot pass over the opportunity of requesting that previous to the delivery of your Packets you will settle the amount, the Person charged with them, is entitled to, in full of all expences, and that you will particularly notify the same to the Presidency where such Person is to be paid, We think in Time of Peace 300 £ is ample, and 500 £ in time of War, either for coming to, or returning from India, and if a fixed Sum was settled we should not have to combat the enormous expectations of any one, and you would be relieved from the various references we shall otherwise be constrained to make to you.

42. Mr. William Burke Pay Master General to His Majesty's Troops in India, having come to Bengal with the approbation of your Government of Fort St. George, took the earliest opportunity of addressing us respecting the King's Troops, and of recommending the adoption of such measures for their future Payment from hence; as appeared most eligible for the Company's Interests, and most convenient to the Troops.

43. The Letters from Fort St. George of the 20th September and 1st October 1785 in which they request to be relieved from the Expence of the Kings Troops and recommend to us to avail ourselves of Mr. Burke's co-operation and assistance on these points were reconsidered, and the Governor General's Sentiments recorded in

Consultation 24th January wholly corresponding with our Idea that the principle of the measure was good, but that "the final arrangement required great Precision and attention". We immediately Ordered our Military Pay Master General and Commissary General to meet Mr. Burke and to prepare such detail as was necessary.—The Plan which they

proposed, Our Resolutions in consequence, and our Letter to Fort  
 Consn 16 Feb'y St. George are entered in our proceedings of the  
 16th February, to which as they make a part of this  
 Dispatch we beg leave to refer you at large. We are satisfied that  
 they will meet your approbation particularly as by relieving your  
 Government of Fort St. George from an actual Disbursement to the  
 amount of 4,00,000 Pagodas Per annum they will, (We are persuad-  
 ed) be able to comply with your Expectations so recently expressed  
 in your Letter of the 15th September last, in procuring you an in-  
 vestment of Coast Goods.

44. Agreeable to our Determination Communicated to you from  
 our Secret Department of Inspection, We regularly hold one meeting  
 in this Department in the course of each month for the purpose of  
 examining all charges of a Contingent Nature. Our Resolutions  
 upon these are kept Separate, as will appear by referring to our  
 Consultation of the 5th December 1785, and 16th January and 28th  
 February 1786.

45. The state of the Treasury this day is as follows. [.....]

Appd.  
 Jn. M.  
 R. S.  
 J. S.  
 C. S.

Fort William  
 the 7th March, 1786.

P. S.\* Since closing our Letter we have received the accompany-  
 ing address to your Hon'ble Court under this date, but cannot in the  
 present state of the dispatch, pass our Comments upon it we shall  
 however do this by the Winterton.

[Endorsement]  
 Genl. 1786 Dept.  
 Draft of Genl.  
 Letter Per Dublin  
 Dated 7 March  
 Abstd C3  
 Entered VM

## LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1786

*Controversy between Fort William Board and Board of Trade  
 relating to cargo for the Winterton and provision of investment—  
 Company's losses owing to financial transactions of Madras Govern-  
 ment—revised establishment for Benkulen Residency—Malaya affairs*

\*Missing in one of the Copies

—King of Keda's grant of Penang Island to Company and its advantages—Capt. Francis Light appointed to superintend Penang Island.

**T**O the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had the honor to address you last under date the 7th Instant by the Dublin, which Ship we were in hopes to have finally dispatched previous to the expiration of the period limited by Charterparty; but it seems from the report of the Gentleman sent down the River on this Service that, notwithstanding our efforts to accomplish that object before the 10th Instant, the Packet did not reach the Ship till the morning of the 11th this being one Day too late, Captain Smith protested in the usual manner on these Occasions.

2. The report of Mr. John Cheap which goes a Number in the Packet will inform you that the whole of the Company's Cargo was not taken in till the 13th which prevented him from Dispatching the Dublin in conformity to his Orders immediately on his arrival on board.

3. We have the pleasure to inform you that the Deptford quitted the Pilot on the 13th and the Dublin her's on the 15th Instant.

4. We beg your attention to Captain Snow's protest against this Government for all losses, damages, costs, charges & expences that may be experienced by the Owners or any person concerned in the Winterton, on account of our refusal to dispatch his Ship in rotation according to her arrival in Bengal.

5. Having fully advised you of the causes which induced us to refuse complying with Captain Snow's claim to this Effect, it is scarcely necessary to trouble you further on the Subject: We cannot however avoid thinking that if Captain Snow has cause to complain, that cause rests alone with himself, and in support of this opinion we request your Hon'ble Court will direct the necessary Enquiries to be made into the Proceedings on board the Winterton, during the Voyage out, particularly respecting the cause of her detention at, and Return to the Cape of Good Hope.

6. Having, in consequence of the 61st Paragraph of your Letter of the 8th July 1785 relative to the adjustment of the Freight of the Surprize, Ordered the expence of conveying the Packets from Limerick to London to be deducted from the Sum due to the Owner of that Ship, we received a Proposal from Colonel Watson that in order to settle the Difference in an amicable and speedy manner we would refer the decision of it to any two respectable Merchants in Calcutta in which we readily acquiesced, & accordingly appointed Messrs. Fergusson and Price, to whose Arbitration the papers regarding the Subject were submitted. As these Gentlemen gave a decided opinion in favor of Colonel Watson we were obliged to relinquish the

Cons 9 Jany

Company's claim and have accordingly adjusted the freight of the Surprize.

7. The Winterton the last Ship of the Season will convey to your Hon'ble Court the Annual proceedings in this Department for 1785 with Index, and the usual subsidiary Papers.

8. In consequence of your repeated Orders the Index has been formed with great care and attention; If it possesses any merit, our Secretary begs it may be given to Mr. Thomas Pigou who executed it. This Young Gentleman, the Son of Captain Pigou formerly in your Service, is an Assistant, but not a Covenanted Servant, in the Secretary's Office.

9. You have already been apprized that the Winterton would not receive on board on account of the Hon'ble Company more than the usual quantity of Salt Petre and Redwood; Being however unwilling to allow that Ship to return to England only in Ballast and understanding that several Merchants who possessed Goods were very desirous of sending them to Europe to be disposed of at your Sales, We resolved in order to prevent the Company from sustaining so heavy a loss as the Amount of the Freight of this Ship to grant permission to the Merchants to load their Goods under the following Conditions.

1ST. That the Goods be assigned over to the Hon'ble Company to be sold at their sales.

2ND. That after the freight the Government and Company's Duties together with the Charges Shipping, Landing &c. are deducted from the proceeds, the Surplus is to be paid to the proprietor.

10. And to this End we desired the Board of Trade to give immediate notice by public Advertisement that Goods would be received for the Winterton.

11. We have also desired that Registers or Certificates in Triplicate be granted to the Merchants whose Goods shall  
 Cons 28 Feby. be shipped on the Winterton to ascertain their property in Europe in the same manner as is given for Raw Silk sent home by Individuals.

12. We trust, when you consider that we were induced to adopt this measure entirely from a desire to prevent a heavy loss to the Hon'ble Company it will secure to us your Approbation: We cannot however pass over this Subject without enlarging on the proceedings of the Board of Trade.

13. It is very true that they represented on the 1st March, that if we prolonged the period of the Wintertons' dispatch to the 25th a sufficiency of the Company's Goods (with the privileged Silk) would be realized.

14. In reply to this Letter we informed the Board of Trade that having in consequence of the representation of their inability to load the Winterton pledged the faith of Government, we could not alter the formal Resolutions we had adopted, nor break our Engagements with the Merchants of the settlement many of whom had perhaps made Arrangements to a considerable Amount in consequence of those Resolutions.

15. Other inducements, equally powerful, operated to confirm our Opinion of the propriety of this measure,—The recent loss of the Hinchinbroke;—the recollection of the number of Ships that have put back when dispatched after the Charterparty period,—the great losses which the Company have occasionally sustained by damaged Goods when some of their Ships were dispatched late in the Season,—And above all, the uncertainty of the Goods reaching the Ship (even if sent away from Town on the 25th March which was doubtful) till the beginning of April, when storms both violent & continual are to be apprehended the forgoing will enable you to judge of the Grounds, which determined us to adopt this plan, we are now to speak of the conduct of the Board of Trade relative to it.

16. In the post[s]cript of our last letter we informed you that we were prevented by the want of time from communicating our Remarks on the Letter from the Board of Trade to your Hon'ble Court of the 7th Instant which came in at the Instant of closing our Dispatches. The parts to which we particularly allude are the different Paragraphs relative to their inability to provide a Cargoe for the Winterton before the 10th March, and the offers they made to us of loading that Ship on account the Company, after we had obtained from Individuals the promise of filling her.

17. Altho' great stress has been laid by the Board of Trade on our Orders respecting the period limited for the receipt of Goods from the merchants & on their advertisements in consequence which have been inserted in the Body of their address to you, We think it unnecessary to pass our Comments on this part of their letter further than by saying if the faith of Government was not formally pledged to the merchants they were induced to form their arrangements in consequence of the Advertisements issued and must have been considerable sufferers if we had disappointed them after those Arrangements were made; Some of them had made larger Provisions of Goods than they have been able to export. We have dwelt so long upon this subject, as we doubt not but you will not only heartily approve the Expedient but extend it hereafter as a Branch of your Commerce.

18. We beg leave to quote in this place two Paragraphs of their Letter of the 18th February Vizt. Para 4th. "It is with much concern we inform you that it will not be practicable to load the Winterton by the 10th March, as all the Goods which we have now in the Export Warehouse are appropriated for the loading of the Dublin, and we expect but a small addition to them in the course of the present Month. Our Contractors sensible of the pressing necessity for Goods to compleat the loading of the latter Ships have

under all their difficulties strenuously exerted their Endeavours to expedite their Deliveries in proper time. But with all the assistance we shall derive from those Exertions, we do not expect, were we to delay the departure of the Winterton, to be able to load her before the End of March and even in that case we should wish you to allow us to purchase 4 or 5 Lacs of ready made Goods to provide against those possible Disappointments to which from the Season of the Year we may be subject, in the timely Arrival of our Contractors Goods".

19. And in the same letter Paragraph 6th they inform us "that tho' it will not be in our power to complete a Cargoe consisting principally of our Contractor's Goods for the Winterton before the 31st of March, we yet think it practicable to prepare one by the 20th of that Month. If you will detain the Winterton till then, Allow us to purchase to the amount of from 10 to 12 Lacs Rupees of ready made Goods of assortments adopted for the Company's Sales at such prices as shall be likely to secure the Company a Profit on them, and assist us with the use of the Company's Pilot Sloops for the express purpose of expediting the loading of the Winterton. We are aware indeed that after the intimation you have given to us of your determination to dispatch the Winterton with or without a Cargoe on the 10th March, these Propositions may be thought superfluous, strong however as the force of this objection may be, We should have considered an Objection infinitely stronger to lay against us had we omitted in this place to explain to you how the Company, by the detention of the Winterton for 10 or 20 days beyond the time, now fixed for her Departure might be furnished, in the present exigency of their affairs with an additional Cargoe of Goods to the amount of 10 or 12 Lacs of Rupees".

20. In the first of these Paragraphs the Board of Trade desire *four or five* Lacs of Rupees to purchase ready made Goods in the other *ten or twelve* lacs and in the 7th Paragraph of their Letter to you of the March they say they only *wished for four or five Lacs*. Had we encreased the embarrassment at the Treasury by furnishing either of the Sums solicited, we doubt whether the ready made Goods could have been provided or if they had that they would have produced a Profit to the Company. Such Purchases can never be made but at a Considerable Loss, You may judge by those of preceding times & the Profit they may have afforded at your Sales. At all events it was not likely that these Goods could have been Shipped before the middle of April, And even then the quality and the price of the Goods might be such as not to justify running the risk of sending them out so late in the Season.

21. The long Correspondence which passed between this Department, and the Board of Trade in consequence of the Disappointments we have experienced in the Amount of the Investment sent you this Season goes a Number in this Packet, as promised in the 5th Paragraph of our last Letter of the 7th Instant, and also the discussion we have had with that Board to enforce carrying into Effect your Orders for furnishing the Hon'ble Company's Investment by

Contract as particularly expressed in your Commands of the 23d April 1784 Paragraph 2d.

22. For the Arguments urged by the Board of Trade against complying with these Orders we refer You to the letters themselves; the 11th Paragraph of your Letter P. Dutton expressive of "the Satisfaction of the Buyers at the quality of the Goods sent you in 1784-5" has been quoted, as superseding these Orders but as we could not admit this Conclusion nor that the Execution of your Orders should be any longer delayed, the Board of Trade, at last issued the advertisement required.

23. In the firm belief that some of the clauses contained in the Advertisement (which the Board of Trade issued) would operate to defeat the great object of your Hon'ble Court when you ordered that the Investment should be provided by Contract, we addressed a Letter to the Board of Trade explanatory of our wishes on this subject, and desired that they would in conformity to those wishes alter their advertisement.

24. Our principal objections were 1st the immediate issue of so large a Proportion of the amount of the Investment as Ten Sixteenths in Advance which we were apprehensive might have very prejudicial consequences by a Sudden rise in the Discount on paper, and recommended that 3/16ths should be advanced in May—2/16ths every Month after till November, when again 3/16ths would be issued to make up the whole Sum, but at the same time was left it to the Board of Trade to adopt this, or any other mode they might seem most advantageous to the Company's Interests.

2dly. The Period limiting the receipt of Proposals, which was confined to only 16 days after the advertisement was issued to the Public, as it would be impossible for People of any great Distance up the Country to make out their Proposals, and transmit them to the Presidency in so limited period.

3dly. The 8th clause held out a considerable penalty against any native Merchant who should be detected in selling Goods to Foreigners during the Existence of his Contract with the Company which we disapproved, because such a clause might operate to prevent them from giving in Proposals, and because we do not know that any such Stipulations were ever made with former Native Contractors, besides, We apprehend this public prohibition would have the worst effects in Europe, and might be considered by foreign Nations possessing Commercial Establishments in Bengal, as a premeditated Exclusion to their Commerce, and would in no Event, on the principle of even a Monopoly of Manufacture be for the benefit of these provinces.

4thly and lastly, the Exclusion of all Europeans not licensed by you to reside In India from giving in proposals, as we apprehend it would defeat your intention when you ordered "that we should accept the lowest Terms that might be offered, provided they were

accompanied with good Security" without pointing out any reservation whatever.

25. At the same time that we expressed our objection to these Clauses being issued in the Advertisement we informed the Board of Trade that it would rest with us to determine whether such proposals as we might receive on this account were objectionable or not when opened. Our wish was to obtain proposals from every quarter in the most unreserved manner, by which alone the actual prices of the Company's Investment could be ascertained.

26. Eleven days after our Objections to the particular clauses of the advertisement were communicated to the Board of Trade tho' not detailed to them at full length we received their Reply—with which we could not but express our Dissatisfaction in some Points. We call your attention very particularly to both these Letters. They go Numbers in the Packet.

27. We wish the Board of Trade to give you their Sentiments freely on all Points that relate to the Department. They have a right to do so and your interest requires that the right should be fully exercised. You are the best Judges if at any time they transgress the bounds of that rights and will pass your Judgement accordingly. If our correspondence with them is at any time troublesome to us we shall not regret the trouble as the Interest of the Company must inevitably be benefited by it, we have directed them to issue an amended Advertisement and shall be happy to find the Remarks of the Accountant General refuted by a more speed realization of the outstanding Debts of the Commercial Department.

28. We observe in the letter addressed to you by the President and Members of the Board of Trade, under date the 18th Instant that they have offered a Strong testimony to the merits, and services of Mr. Jacob Blaquiere, the Superintendent of your Cloth Investment, whose allowances have lately suffered a considerable reduction in consequence of your Orders of the 11th April 1785.

29. In the General Letter to your Hon'ble Court of the 29th November 1780 Para 67 the then Governor General and Council expressed to you their sense of the merits of Mr. Blaquiere & supported a request made by your Board of Trade that his Son might be appointed a Writer on this Establishment.

30. We now observe a repeated testimony of the Board of Trade's approbation of Mr. Blaquiere's services and a recommendation of him to your favor : we with pleasure join in that recommendation, and wish that the former request of this Gentleman, in favor of his Son, had been successful as he is a Young Man of extraordinary Genius, & distinguished for his knowledge in the languages of this Country.

31. We have sent to Europe a Passenger on the Winterton Mr. Henry Walter a Civil Servant of this Establishment and One of the Members of the Board of Trade, whose evident Insanity compelled

the President and Members of the Board of Trade to exclude him from his Seat at their Board as will appear by their Letters to you :  
 Cons 21st & Our Proceedings will also shew the Steps taken  
 28th Feb'y upon this Occasion, and our Resolution to allow Mr.  
 8 & 20 March Walter to draw the allowances appertaining to his  
 Station, And we trust when you consider the unhappy, helpless  
 situation he is in, and the large family he has, consisting of Mrs. Walter  
 and several Children, that you will deem this only an Act of com-  
 mon Humanity deserving your Approbation.—Mr. Walter before the  
 Period of his Loss of Reason was an attentive Servant. His poverty  
 shews that he was not an avaricious one and we hope that absti-  
 nence from Strong liquor and the effects of a Cold climate may  
 restore him to health, and the free use of his Reason. In every  
 light he is entitled to your humane considration.

32. We beg leave to call your attention to the following Transac-  
 tion of the President and Council at Fort St. George which we con-  
 sider to have been unjustifiable as it could scarcely be warranted by  
 any Exigency of their Affairs.

33. On the 26th July last we authorized them to draw Bills upon  
 us in the usual mode, at the time they were well informed that many  
 of their Drafts of long standing (tho' accepted) remained to be  
 discharged, the state of our Treasury not admitting their payment.  
 This Consideration exclusive of the Company's Interests and the  
 Credit of both Governments ought to have had its weight with them,  
 and to have precluded every idea of Engagements which could in  
 the smallest Degree injure their former Creditors. whose represen-  
 tations, in consequence of delays in payment, were frequent, and  
 merited attention.

34. These circumstances, however had not due weight and on the  
 19th November they acquaint us that they have drawn Bills in  
 favor of Mr. Edward Raphael for Seventy five thousand Star  
 Pagodas at the enormous Exchange of 410 Arcot Rupees P. 100  
 Pagodas : that these Bills by Agreement are to be discharged with-  
 in one Month after they become due, or the Company is to be res-  
 ponsible for the Discount or loss by the public Sale of them.

35. They at the same time apprize us that most probably they  
 shall draw upon us for more, which they did on the 12th December  
 following for 60 thousand Star pagodas upon the same terms, in  
 favour of the same person at the same rate of Exchange.

36. The state of our Treasury independent of the Regulations  
 respecting the Discharge of all Paper according to priority of Date  
 precluded us from complying with these Stipulations; for the honor,  
 however, of that Presidency we accepted the Bills, and to prevent  
 their being publicly disposed of, we called upon the Holders to  
 specify upon what terms they would part with them to the Company  
 after the period for payment should arrive. Their  
 Cons 3 Feb'y Proposals calculated according to the Discount up-  
 on Paper of the same date we were induced to  
 accede to, but we sincerely regret, that our Hon'ble Employers, by

so inconsiderate an Agreement made by the Government of Fort St. George, should be subject to so great a loss as 1,49,455 Ct. Rupees, independant of the extravagant rate of the Exchange.

37. In reply to our pointed Disapprobation of this very extraordinary business, and to our positive and peremptory prohibition of similar Engagements so highly injurious to the Company, and unfair to every Individual possessing Claims on our Treasury, They assert that they were unacquainted with our intentions of sending such ample supplies in Specie as they received by the Francis & Admiral Hughes. Whether this Declaration will hold good with respect to the latter Agreement, the Arrival of Mr. Oakes at Madras, with the information of those Remittances, will best determine, and at all Events as that Gentleman, had been deputed to us publicly, they ought to have waited the Result of his Deputation, as their necessities do not appear to have been uncommonly urgent.

38. In conformity to your Commands We have kept our Proceed-  
 Separate Proceedings relative to the Presidency of Fort Marlbro'  
 21 Feby  
 20 March Separate, and have now the honor to transmit them  
 21 Do to you by the Winterton.

39. After having taken into the most serious Consideration your Orders of the 11th of April to this Government, and those of the 7th March to Bencoolen together with such information as we could procure respecting the situation of that settlement & it's Depend-  
 Separate Con 2 cies We came to the Resolutions recorded at large  
 March in the Proceedings noted in the Margin, observing nearly as possible the spirit of your Orders.

40. The number of Europeans belonging to the Military at Fort Marlbro' being insufficient, the Commander in Chief of India laid before us an Establishment of Sepoys confining it to the Expence limited in the List sent out by you.

41. In that List the Senior Military Officer is stiled "Second in Council, as Commander in Chief" a Title which we think improper, when we compare his relative situation to the Commander in Chief in India and to that of Officers of higher rank in the Hon'ble Company's Service in Bengal, who are limited to the rank, and appellation of Colonels. We also think there will be no impropriety in granting the Title of Commander in Chief & consequently the honors, since the last India Bill, to more persons than are specified in it; But as your Hon'ble Court have used this Application in the List sent out; we did not wish to change it, until your Pleasure shall be known.

42. The Gentlemen of Bencoolen have represented the hardship of their Situation and we believe their representations to be just but we did not deem ourselves authorized to permit the Expences of their Establishments to exceed the total amount to which you have confined them : We recommended they would cheerfully adopt such measures as would carry into effect your Orders, by which alone they could expect your attention to their Situation.

43. We cannot avoid bringing to your notice in this place, the Scanty allowances of your Servants at Fort Marlbro', both Civil & Military particularly to the latter—The address which we have the honor to enclose a Number in the packet from the Officers serving there is a sad picture of their situation, and will evince the distresses under which they labor, and we hope secure to them your favorable consideration.

44. It seems you have not specified the Extent of the powers, with which it was your intention the Residency of Bencoolen should remain vested: "As a President & Council they observe that they were empowered under the Sanction of an act of Parliament to act as Justices of Peace, to institute Courts of Judicature for Civil and Criminal process, and to grant warrants for holding General Courts Martial, And by you they were empowered to grant Military Commissions".

We have been asked "whether any, or all of these powers are to cease in consequence of the State of Subordination in which that Settlement is now placed," and have replied that we did not conceive the change of their Establishment from a Presidency to a Residency could divest them of those powers, but we request your Orders on this subject as early as possible.—The Establishment of Fort Marlborough has its separate Servants Civil & Military—and they must possess a regular Constitution of Separate Establishment even as a Residency under this Government as in 1757 that Establishment was a Deputy Governor & Council so we have resolved that the Council of the Deputy Governor or Chief Resident should be formed on the model of the present Constitution of your Chief Councils in India.

45. Having lately received a letter from Captain Francis Light, giving an Account of the Malays, the Conquests of the Dutch over some of their Princes, the Intrigues of the French, and the sanction of the Trade to the Eastward, with many letters from the Princes of these Countries to the Governor General with which he was charged, also a Grant of the Island of Penang to the English East India Company from the King of Queda we took the same into consideration with the Orders of your Secret Committee.

46. Captain Light represents that the Island of Penang, lying in the Streight of Malacca in Latitude 5°. 20' North, has an excellent Port on the East Side, where Provisions of all kinds are to be procured in abundance, that it is convenient for Ships bound to China from all parts of India, and is so well situated, that it must, if not loaded with Impositions and restrictions, soon become the Emporium of the Eastern trade.

47. The Island is so peculiarly adopted as a Mercantile Station for vessels from all the Malay Ports, the Malacas, the Philippine Islands and Borneo, that we did not hesitate to accept the King of Queda's Grant, as by an Establishment properly secured at this place, the Bengal Trade with that of China will be connected; we

are fully convinced (from the Conduct of the Dutch) that it is become more necessary than ever for us to have a Port, where Ships of our Nation may meet the Eastern Merchants, as well for the Promotion of that valuable Commerce as to afford a Windward Station of refreshment, and repair to the King's the Company's & the Country Ships.

48. The Depth, and flow of water in the Harbour, the facility of Approach, and Retreat to Ships of all Burthens, and at all Seasons, together with the nature of the Soil and productions, are represented by Captain Light to be such as have convinced us this Situation is superior to all others, It lies right in the Track of the China Ships from Bombay, Madras, and Bengal, and the Communication with Penang, and the Presidencies of Bengal, and Madras is at all times open; and not more than a Month or Six weeks in the most unfavourable Season is necessary to send, or receive Advices from both.

49. The Possession of this Island cannot fail of being of the greatest utility to any Maritime power in India, and We believe it to be a more eligible situation, in the Northerly Monsoons, than even Bombay, as it affords a Station from which his Majesty's Squadron may at any Season proceed to the Support of the Company's Settlements on the Malabar Coast, the Coromandel Coast, or to any Port in the Bay of Bengal, with great ease & quickness, which cannot be done either from Trincomalay or Bombay; and Ships of all Burthens may heave down, and repair there with Ease in a healthy situation abounding with every necessary refreshment. Our arrangements for taking Possession of the Island, and for forming an Establishment Separate Proceed- there are recorded in the Consultations noted in the ings 2nd 20th & Margin, to which we beg leave to refer you, and to 21st March our Letter of this Date from the Secret Department.

50. In consideration of our very favorable Opinion of Captain Light we vested him with the Charge & Superintendence of the Island of Penang on the part of the East India Company until your pleasure shall be known, or until further Orders, and We granted him a Commission as Commander of the Eliza Snow & Superintendant of the Island and Harbour of Penang, his knowledge of the Malay and Siamese Languages, the high esteem in which he is held by the King of Queda, and the Malay Chiefs, and above all his particular acquaintance with the Eastern Trade induced us to prefer him to any of the Company's Servants who did not possess such Requisites.

51. As the source of this important undertaking depends entirely on the Conductor of it during its first Establishment we have placed the whole management of it to Captain Light without employing any of your civil or military Servants under him. We shall be cautious of incurring much Expence untill we are fully informed, and have received the best lights relative to the Island & harbour. We hope the latter may be fortified at a small Expence we have sanguine Expectations from the success of the undertaking and its future utility to the Company.

52. Colonel Sir John Cumming having requested our permission to return to Europe in the Winterton on leave of Absence but without Pay for three years for the recovery of his health, which step was recommended to him by the most experienced of the Faculty, we readily assented thereto—and as Colonel Cumming has conducted himself to our Satisfaction in his late Command and intends as soon as his health is established to come back to India, we beg leave to recommend him to your Notice.

53. Lieutenant Henderson has also obtained our leave of Absence for three years, on full Pay to be received in Bengal, and embarks in the Winterton.

[Endorsement]

Genl. 1786 Dept.

Fort Wm the 25th March

Draft of General

Letter per Winterton

Abstd. CB.

Entered V.M.

7

LETTER DATED 3 JULY 1786

*Transfer of Company's Indian debts to England—exchange rates of Bombay Rupee and pagoda—reorganisation of various departments according to new regulations—rules re. proposals for investment contracts—reasons for giving preference to Company's servants and old contractors over Indians—details re. investment—need for a favourable rates of exchange.*

**T**O The Hon'ble the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para 1. Having thought it expedient to dispatch the Hon'ble Company's Snow Elizabeth to Bussorah with advices from the Secret Department, we avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded of acknowledging the receipt of your several Letters, Nos. 1 & 2 under date the 21st September, and that of the 22nd December 1785, also Mr. Secretary Morton's Letters of the 27th December 1785, and one of the 12th January 1786.—

2. We have the pleasure to inform you that the Earl Talbot arrived in this River on the 28th April. The Phoenix on the 29th May and the Manship on the 9th June.—

3. As this address is to be forwarded overland, We shall confine ourselves for the present to a reply to such parts of the Letters from

you as require an immediate answer reserving the usual minute detail of our proceedings, Since the close of the Winterton's Packet, to be transmitted by the first Sea conveyance, and as one will occur early next month. We hope our Proceedings to the first of July, will reach you nearly as soon as this Letter.—

4. Your Orders of the 15th September which arrived here on the 4th February, were also received at the Presidencies of Bombay and Fort St. George in due course; and notification of your intentions to transfer the Hon'ble Company's India Debts to the amount of Rs. 6,00,00,000 to England, was accordingly Publicly announced at your several settlements.—

5. Immediately upon this notification being issued at Bombay a number of Gentlemen, who composed a Committee of Bond Creditors, addressed a memorial to the Hon'ble the President and Council soliciting, that in the settlement of the exchange for the Bombay Rupee agreeable to the Standard Ordered by your Hon'ble Court, the calculations might be made in a fair, and equitable manner according to the true value, or rate of Exchange, between the Bombay Rupee and the Bengal Sicca, which they concluded were the actual Coins paid into the Hon'ble Company's treasuries at both places.—

6. These Gentlemen represented that the Bombay Rupee is nearly if not fully, equal in intrinsic value, to the Bengal Sicca Rupee, and that in Commercial transactions, or remittances by private merchants when the Bills are punctually paid, they are invariably estimated of equal value, and further that by an Order of the Bombay Government the Bengal Sicca Rupee was established as the Current Coin of Bombay, and had always been received and issued at the Company's Treasury and by all Shroffs and Merchants at no more than par with the Bombay Rupee.—

7. These assertions were confirmed by the declaration of the President and Council who thought the claims of the Bombay Creditors just and equitable, and accordingly recommended them to us, in the Strongest manner.—

8. At the same time that the Letters from Bombay were under consideration, we had before us one from the President and Council of Fort St. George covering an address from several of the principal Merchants at the Presidency on the subject of the value of a Pagoda comparatively, with the Current Rupee at 1 s. 8 d. Sterling.

9. They were of opinion that the proportionate rate of exchange in Sterling Money, for the Pagoda as 1 s. 8 d. is to the Current Rupee could not be estimated by any very just, or certain Criterion, as the rates of Exchange, in all situations of Foreign Intercourse are ever subject to great and quick fluctuations nor does it appear, by your Commands how the proportion is to be established, whether on the rates between Madras and London, or on the Exchange between Madras & Calcutta in either case there is not, nor can there be any fixed standard by which the Calculation could be made.

10. That we might be fully informed on the Subject of these representations from the other Presidencies and enabled to judge with certainty how far they were well grounded we called upon the Mint Master to report the intrinsic value of the Sicca and Bombay Rupees, and that of the Madras Pagoda, we beg leave to refer to his Letter as deserving your particular attention, and also to a Letter from the Accomptant General on the same subject.—

11. We find on a reference to the Books of this Government that 100 Pagodas are reckoned as equivalent to 350 C. Rs. and 100 Bombay Rupees to 110 C.Rs. and when you authorized in 1774 Bills of Exchange to be drawn upon you, from this place, Madras, and Bombay: You fixed the rate of the Current Rupee at 2s. 1d. the Star Pagoda at 7s.4d. and the Bombay Rupee at 2s. 3d. at these rates of Exchange, 352 Bengal Current Rupees produced in England, the same Sum as 100 Pagodas and 108 Bengal C. Rs. as much as 100 Bombay Rupees.—

12. It would therefore appear that your Hon'ble Court expected the value of the Pagoda to be reduced according to the foregoing proportion that is to 5s. & 10d. and the Bombay Rupee to 1 & 10 but finding from the report of the Mint Master that this was by no means an equitable rule of proportion, Since the relative intrinsic value of the Pagoda to a Guinea is 7-5.—304 that of a Bombay Rupee to a pound sterling 24d., 4745, and the Calcutta Sicca Rupee 24d., 5659, according therefore to the Standard which you have fixed for the Current Rupee (20d.) the value of the three Species of Coin will be reduced in the following proportions vizt.

The Sicca Rupee to pence	23,200 part of a penny
The Bombay Rupee to	231,136 part of a penny
The Pagoda to	73,344 part of a penny

13. We have accordingly settled the rate of the Pagoda at 7 Shillings, and the Bombay Rupee at 1 Shilling and eleven pence for the Bills we may draw upon you; at present, we are sorry to say, we are without hopes of obtaining subscriptions to any considerable amount having only received applications for about 2 Lacs of Rupees and as your Bonds may now be purchased at a discount of 25 P Cent which gives so high an Exchange as 2.2.½ & 2/3ds. per Current Rupee, We apprehend it is not, the apparent low rate of Exchange (1s.8d.) but the distant period of payment that Deters individuals from subscribing to terms, in every other respect so evidently advantageous.

14. Your Hon'ble Court are well informed of the many advantages that must result to the Company from the Transfer of their Indian Debts to England; You have long since been in Possession of the sentiments of this Government upon this important subject: Plans were transmitted for your consideration and adoption as early as May 1785 and we do not think it unlikely but these plans may have suggested an alteration in your Orders of the 15th September last. We cannot with certainty inform you till the beginning of September of the amount which will be subscribed by your Bond and other Creditors in consequence of the permission you have granted: but

we have every reason to believe that the amount will fall short of the diminution you expected in your India Debts.

15. It will readily occur to you that the extent of the Credit which you have given, has served to raise the Current value of all your Bonds, but has thereby superseded the necessity under which many of the Proprietors labored of negotiating them at any Discount. The large amount of the Bills which you have permitted to be drawn renders them less valuable, the lowness of the Exchange fixed by you, and the distant period of payment have induced the Agents of the Foreign Companies to offer more favorable terms, you will have the Subject now before you in every point of view. And we doubt not but your future Orders will obviate any Disappointments incident to your Original Instructions.

16. Soon after the receipt of your Letters by the Talbot, the Hon'ble the Governor General laid before us a Minute expressive of his satisfaction at the new Regulations for conducting Public affairs and particularly at the Establishment now formed for the Commercial Department at the several Presidencies: to his minute, which accompanies this letter we beg leave to refer.

17. We accordingly proceeded to the formation of the several Boards, The Commander in Chief presides at the Military Board, Mr. Stables at the Board of Revenue and the Hon'ble Mr. Stuart at the Board of Trade: Our Proceedings relative to the formation of these Boards, and the Execution of your Orders on the Subject of a new Military Establishment for this Government, and the reform of the late Board of Trade will be submitted to you in complete detail by the first Sea Dispatch.

18. We have continued the Members of the late Committee of Revenue vizt. Messrs. Cowper, Graham, Mackenzie & Evelyn in that Department. This Arrangement was particularly agreeable to the Member of Government who is President of the new Board.

19. We appointed Messrs. William Barton, Jacob Rider, William Rooke, and Nathaniel Bateman to constitute the new Board of Trade. These Gentlemen after the dissolution of the late Board being the Senior Civil Servants out of Employ at the Presidency.

20. In the 27th Paragraph of our Letter of the 25th March we informed you, after recapitulating our various discussions with the late Board of Trade respecting the mode of providing the Investment, and our objections to some Clauses in the Advertisement for proposals which they had issued, that we had directed them to publish an amended Advertisement omitting the parts we had disapproved, this they complied with and accordingly excluded the 8th & 9th Clauses in consequence as they stated of "our peremptory requisition tho' by no vide letter Dated 28 March means concurring with us in the Reasons we March Recorded 26 April had urged against them".

21. The period for receiving proposals being limited to the 20th April we held a meeting on the day following for the express purpose of opening and reading such as had been given in and immediately ordered our Secretary and Accountant General to prepare an Abstract, and draw up a Report upon the Comparative Terms of each proposal for our future consideration and decision.

22. In preparing a Report on a Business of such magnitude and of so much real consequence to the Interest of the Hon'ble Company, as well as of many individuals much Circumspection and labor of calculation were required Before it was finally arranged, your Orders of the 21st September per Talbot arrived, and the alteration directed thereby, had (as we have mentioned in a former part of this Letter) placed the Hon'ble Mr Stuart in the Office of President of the new Board of Trade; We conceived however, notwithstanding the Constitution of this new Board, that having in some measure pledged ourselves to the public to attend to the proposals which had been delivered in, it was incumbent on us to take the Several Offers into Consideration and accordingly on the 12th May we proceeded to read the Report and Statement, which our Secretary and Accountant General had completed, we at the same time Resolved upon the following General Rules to be strictly observed in passing our final Decision upon every Offer.

*First*—That the proposers and Securities be warned that in case of failure in their Engagements, the Penalty which is to be double the amount of what the Contractors may fail to deliver will be most scrupulously exacted.

*Second*—That whenever there shall be a competition between a Company's Servant in Commercial employ and native, or any European not in the Company's Service, the amount which the Company will have to pay for the subsistence of their own Servant if unemployed, be considered in determining the lowest proposal.

*Third*—That all proposals which do not conform exactly to the Terms of the Advertisement be rejected.

*Fourth*—That no offer delivered in subsequent to the period fixed for the receipt of proposals be taken into Consideration as it would be unfair to give any Person or persons who may have obtained a knowledge of their Competitors Terms an opportunity of altering or new modelling their own.

23. These General Rules with every possible attention to the interest of our Hon'ble Employers and the situation of their Servants, were our Guide in the Resolutions we have passed, and we are persuaded that when they are perused by you with the Consideration which the importance of the Subject requires, we shall meet your entire approbation.

24. You will observe that we have in many, indeed almost every instance given the Preference to the Proposals of the old Contractors & Servants of the Company in so doing however we were not biassed by partiality or favor on the contrary we were entirely influenced

by a regard to your Interests which otherwise would have been sacrificed by the Competition of new Adventurers and the old Contractors, and it was necessary at all Events to secure the Provision of Cargoes for your returning Ships.

25. Among the proposals which we received there was one for the provision of the whole investment, under the Signatures of Messrs. James English Keighly & Leonard Collings, this proposal we rejected 1st because we conceived the Trust to be infinitely too extensive for any two of your Servants, not deeming the private fortune of any individuals sufficient Security for so large an amount as the sum required for the provision of the whole of your investment, and because on a Comparative Statement we found their Terms to exceed in a considerable amount the average of the Separate Offers from individuals as well as the rates of last year.

26. We also declined accepting the particular offers from Natives for various reasons.

1st—The insufficiency of their Security and likewise because they offered such low terms that it appeared evidently to be their object to secure possession of the Aurungs by which they could supply foreigners to any extent and trust to events to extricate themselves from their engagements with the Company. We were also apprehensive of a debasement in the quality of the Goods from the Distress which the weavers themselves (who are considered under the authority of the Contractor) would experience in not receiving the just price of their labour, or the value of their manufactures from Native Agents, which would in the end prove a Detriment to the Revenues in the Desertion of Inhabitants from the Aurungs.

27. Another powerfull inducement for adopting the proposals of the Company's Servants and Old Contractors, was the consideration of the difficulties which even experienced men would have to encounter, at this advanced Season of the year, in providing the Goods within the prescribed periods, tho' in actual Possession of the Factories and Aurungs and to these Difficulties it was but fair to add the great additional Risque of an entire failure in our Expectation, if under Similar Circumstances of Discouragement we had confided in new, and unskilled Contractors of whose Capacity no Judgement could be formed.

28. In addition to the above arguments if more are necessary to show the necessity of the measure, we gave due Weight to the very Superior Ties by which your own Servants are bound, for exclusive of the usual Security offered by their Competitors they are powerfully restricted from supplying foreigners by an act of the Legislature, and by the Dread of the loss of the Service, the Improvement of the Cloths, the good Treatment of the Weavers, and the regular performance of Engagements, are points of serious Import with them, as they must infallibly ensure a Continuance of Confidence, and lead in course to future advancement in the Company's Service, to which adventurers & Natives cannot aspire. You will be pleased to observe that with these necessary deviations, from the letter of our advertizement relative to sealed Proposals we have adhered to the Spirit, of our proposition to the Public, we have rejected no proposal containing Term\* more advantageous supported by unquestionable Security

or which could have been accepted without producing such confusion at the Aurungs as would in the end put an entire stop to the Investment or, debase the quality of the manufacture. The great object of adverting for proposals that of ascertaining the lowest prices, has been accomplished. The several offers those accepted or rejected with the report upon them will be transmitted for your particular information.

29. The amount of the investment agreeably to the accepted proposals was Forty eight Lacs of Current Rupees (48,00,000,) and proportioned to the different Articles specified in your List per Dutton, the list mentioned in the Post[s]cript to your Letter of the 15th September as coming by some future Conveyance not being yet arrived.

30. Subsequent to the adjustment of these Contracts, we received a very pressing solicitation from the Board of Trade to allow an augmentation to the Investment in the amount of 60 Lacks, to enable them to complete Cargoes at the rate of 14 Lacks per Ship, for all the Ships expected this Season—This solicitation is also supported by a Minute from the President of the Board of Trade, recorded on our Proceedings noted in the Margin.—

31. Sensible that the temporary Inconvenience of encreasing the Demands upon this Government in a small degree would in fact, be a lesser Evil, than keeping several ships here on a heavy Demorage, the amount of which must ultimately have fallen on the price of those Goods, for which Provision had been made, and wishing as far as possible to verify your Expectations in returning your Ships, even tho' the Remittance plan which must have induced you to take up so many, is not likely to succeed we resolved after the most serious consideration on an Encrease to the amount of 30 Lacks which we have appropriated as follows.—

15 Lacks for Piece Goods

10 Lacks Raw Silk

5 Lacks Indigo—This makes the prime Cost of the Investment to be provided in 1786/7, amount to 78 Lacks of Current Rupees.—

32. The advances for this augmentation are to be made in the usual mode of Certificates, the Difficulties which our Contractors encounter in procuring cash for them, would entirely preclude the possibility at this advanced period, of their realizing Goods to a large amount even if the State of our resources would have admitted of the Increase applied for, we flatter ourselves however in the hope that our Exertions limited as they unavoidably have been will meet the approbation of your Hon'ble Court.—

33. From the great exertions which are made by the foreign Agents to provide considerable Investments in these provinces and the high exchange & favourable terms they give for Money, we are persuaded that you must be convinced that there are no effectual steps for

counteracting the Agents of the Foreign Companies but through your Support and extension of the plan by which the Winterton was loaded with the Goods of private Merchants or a great increase to your own Investments which can only be secured by your authorising us to Draw upon you at a favorable Exchange payable in twelve Months.—

34. It will readily occur to you that the rate of exchange to be granted by you, must in order to be favorable be a certain proportion to the exchange granted by the Foreign Companies who have since the act of Parliament adopted a mode of evading the Law by negotiating the bills of English Merchants in London on English Houses in Bengal, these Bills being in their nature transferable are payable to any person into whose possession they may fall and thro' the hands of Native and Armenian Merchants the produce of them is applied to the purchase of Cargoes for the Foreign Ships.—

35. To make these Bills unquestionable & of course more sought after than those of the English Company money is deposited we understand by foreigners in many principal Houses in London in favor of Merchants or Agents houses in India by which means a mutual credit is established while the actual proprietors of the Bills may remain totally ignorant that the money with which the bills were purchased was on account of Foreigners. In a word the credit established at present by the means of Native, Armenian & other Merchants between London & Calcutta is like that established between London & any Great foreign City.—

36. Having informed you of these Circumstances, and the Situation of our Resources being Minutely known to you it will rest with your Hon'ble Court to determine the number of Ships you may think it expedient to take up for this Settlement in the course of the following year.—

Fort William  
the 3rd July 1786.

We have the honor to be &c

[Endorsement]

Pub. 1786 Dep.

General Letter to the Court of Directors

Dated 3rd July

Per Elizabeth

Via Bussorah

Exd. T. Pigou  
Entered V.M.

## LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1786

*Financial position of the Company—military matters—Capt. Kirkpatrick's Hindi Grammar—difficulties in adjusting accounts of King's troops—military subjects to be dealt with in Secret Department—advantages of building Diamond Harbour—pilot vessels to be built at Bombay—Lt.-Col. Kyd's proposal for establishing a botanical garden at Calcutta accepted—Penang expedition starts off from Calcutta.*

TO the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We last addressed you on the 3rd ultimo by way of Bussorah, Pub Dept. and have now the honor to transmit a Duplicate of that Letter.—

2. Our Late advices having been confined to the detail of such Subjects alone as we considered of Immediate import and such as did not require any reference to our Consultations for fuller, or more particular information; We shall now mention those matters that have occurred of less consequence since the departure of the Winterton.—

3. In the Proceedings noted in the Margin, you will observe a Consn. 11th July letter from Captain Kidd, Commander of the Severn a small copper-bottomed Vessel, proposing to take charge of a Packet for your Hon'ble Court, without Freight, or any other Expence to the Company, and without lodging any article of Commerce on board her for Europe, provided we would allow him to convey Stores, and provisions on his own account for the Island of St. Helena.—

4. To a proposal so disinterested we could not refuse our Consent, particularly when the period of sailing was exactly conformable to our intentions of addressing you as already notified, & the owner had agreed to have the terms legally drawn up to obviate the possibility of any deviation.—

5. We avail ourselves, therefore, of this Conveyance to address you, and shall forward our Broken set of Proceedings in this Department for the months of March, April, May, June and July, with separate Indexes for each Month, by the Ranger, a small Vessel belonging to the Company, on the Eve of being dispatched to England, with directions to call at Fort St. George, to convey to your Hon'ble Court the latest advices from that Settlement.—

6. We have the pleasure to inform you that the Winterton quitted her Pilot off the Sands-heads on the 1st of April, and the Eagle packet left Fort St. George on the 20th of the same Month, after having relanded 400 Bags of the Salt Petre consigned to you by her.

7. Since the close of our last Letter, via Bussorah, the following Ships have imported.

The Ganges—on the 30th June

Berrington—11th July &

Earl of Oxford—on the 16th July.

8. The packets by the two latter Ships on being opened were found to contain the Original and Duplicate of your Letters to this Government under date the 24th February last. It was read in Council on the 11th ultimo, and the necessary Orders were immediately issued to the different Departments as will appear by referring to our Proceedings of that date.—

9. In order to enable the Accountant General to form the Estimate of Probable Resources, and Disbursements for the Current Year ending the 30th April 1786, (which we shall have the honor to transmit you by this Conveyance) and according to established usage, we took into consideration the supplies which could be furnished by this Government to the other Presidencies, the Residency of Bencoolen, the Supra Cargoes at China and on account of Stores for the Island of St. Helena, & resolved to allot the following Sums for these Services vizt.

	Ct. Rs.
To Fort St. George . . . . .	40,00,000
Bombay . . . . .	40,00,000
Fort Marlbro' . . . . .	2,50,000
Canton . . . . .	15,00,000
St. Helena . . . . .	15,000
Making the sum of Ct. Rs. . . . .	97,65,000

10. Not having been furnished with the necessary Accounts from Fort St George We could only Estimate the wants of that Presidency which we did as follow.—

The amount to be issued on account of the Kings Troops is . . . . .	Ct Rs. 17,28,717 12 4
The amount of Bills for Military Arrears estimated at . . . . .	16,00,000 0 0
For grain, Ordnance Stores & ca. . . . .	6,71,282 3 8
Ct. Rs. . . . .	40,00,000 0 0

11. The Gentlemen at Bombay have been regular in the transmission of their Accounts, and specific in their Demands. In their Letter of the 8th May recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin, they state their wants at the Sum of Bombay Rs. 39,57,512-7-0.

12. This supply to the other Presidencies, great as it is, could not be avoided, as will fully appear to you on a reference to the reiterated representations from the Gentlemen at Fort St. George and Bombay, of their distressed situation for money Stores and other supplies, these distresses we have invariably used our utmost exertions to remove; But we must not in this place forbear to apprise you, that it is impossible for Bengal, to furnish means to continue an annual Disbursement on account of Fort St George and Bombay to the Extent of Eighty Lacks of Rupees loaded as we are from every Quarter, with the accumulated Debt of the late War, neither is it possible to continue to appropriate One third of the Revenues of these provinces to the Supply of the dependent Governments, and at the same time furnish you with ample investment.

13. Being on the Subject of the Finances of this Government, & the supplies to the other Presidencies, we can readily conceive the Effect which our Estimate of resources & disbursements must produce in England, And however unfavorable so considerable a deficiency or Balance against the Company at Ct. Rs. 89,71,610-2-8 may at first sight appear, we think it more for Your satisfaction to make such an Allowance for our Disbursements, that the Event may prove more favorable, than the prediction, as well as to avoid the necessity of pointing out to you that our actual exceeded our expected Disbursements, by the insufficiency of that allowance.—

14. On a reference to the Comparative Account of real receipts and Disbursements ending in April 1785, with the account of supposed receipts and Disbursements of the Bengal Government formed in November 1784 for the same year, it will appear that our Disbursements were less, and our Resources greater, in the combined Sum of Sixteen Lacks, and an half of Rupees a Circumstance which could not but be pleasing to the Company and to the Nation.—

15. The first object of your present Administration was to furnish the Company with the most correct Statements that could be formed of their Debts of whatever nature in Asia, But with all our care & anxiety it was impossible for us to obtain from the other Presidencies the necessary materials for a clear Exhibition of the Burthens of the Company, and would only, with any degree of accuracy, communicate to you the Debts and expected Disbursements of this Government, on account of it's own Expences.—

16. Your Hon'ble Court, on a proper consideration of the Subject, cannot be at a loss to ascertain the causes why the estimate of our probable Disbursements is more than that of our supposed Receipts for the year closing the 30th April 1787. For when you recollect that the balance against this Government in the Estimate for the preceding year was Ct. Rs. 1,16,46,715-10-7, which exceeds the amount of the present Balance in the Sum of Ct. Rs. 26,75,105-8-1 & at the same time that the unadjusted Debts of the late War to an amount not short of One Crore & fifty Lacks of Rupees, (1,50,00,000) being the Military Arrears of your different Armies, have been either discharged in specie by Bills which we have accepted or by Bonds to be paid by this

Government: You will join in Opinion with us that under the foregoing Circumstances, the present state of your Finances so infinitely more favorable than you had arisen to expect, after so long, so general, and such an expensive war, the Burthen of which fell almost entirely upon this Government.—

17. The Military Arrears of Bengal alone on the 1st January 1785, were by Estimate fifty six Lacks of Rupees, these have been discharged in Cash up to the Pay of the Month: But altho' the amount of our Remittances in specie and by Bills (that have been paid in Cash) transmitted to Madras & Bombay for similar purposes has been more than adequate to discharge the arrears due to the Soldiery, and Subalterns there, we are yet to learn from those Presidencies the final adjustment of their accounts.—

18. Besides these extraordinary Demands upon the Treasury of Bengal in the preceding and present years you will please to remember that the Investment sent home in the Ships of last Season was not accompanied by us with any Extra Drafts upon your Credit at home the total Amount of Bills drawn upon you of which the proceeds were received within the year was only.—

In Certificates

Ct. Rs. 3,48,249-5-9

& Bills

7,90,662-8-8

Making together 11,38,911-14-5

It is likewise to be observed that the Prime cost of the Investment of the present Season, with the Balance remaining in hand of the last, not received in time to be Shipped, will be clear remittance to the Company, of more than One Crore of Rupees.—This sum added to the amount of our Supplies to the other Presidencies causes a Disbursement, Exclusive of the Charges of our own Establishment of full Two Millions Sterling, rating the Current Rupee at only two Shillings, and but for your own Orders relative to the Expences to be charged to the Vizier for the maintenance of your Troops in Owde our Receipts from that Quarter would be considerably greater and the excess of Disbursements stated in our Estimate much lessened.

19. In a word Gentlemen the combined Expenditures for the Supply of the other Presidencies & China; the discharge of Civil and Military Arrears, the provision of this years Investment together with the numberless Debts, which, in the final adjustment of the Accounts of the War, have poured in on this Government, will fully explain to your Hon'ble Court the Causes, why after the Reductions we have effected, the amount of our supposed Disbursements ending the 30th April 1787 exceeds our supposed Receipts in the same year, and we hope on a collective view of these Facts you will find ample reason for being satisfied with the oeconomical Arrangement and Disposal of your Finances under our management, for we venture to assure you that it has not been in our power to administer your

Resources with greater frugality, or to appropriate them more effectually, for the general support of your Credit throughout India, or more anxiously for the support of your Credit in Europe.—

20. In testimony of the Success of our Arrangements, for which we hold the Company much indebted to the labor, and fidelity of your Public Secretaries, and very particularly to the Industry, & Exertions of your Accountant General, we have now the pleasure to inform you that the correct, and impartial Regulations of your Treasury have greatly tended to revive your Credit in this Settlement. The Discount upon your Treasury Certificates at present is in proportion to their Dates, that on paper of yesterday is between 8 and 10 P. Cent and decreases in regular diminution, according to Date when we had last the honor of writing to you, the Discount was from 15 to 19 P. Cent.—

21. Your Bonds, however, are yet at a Discount of 20 P. Cent notwithstanding the advantage derived to the Proprietor by the Orders of the 15th September last, entitling them to an Exchange for Bills upon your Treasury at home, which gives a remittance of at least 2s. 1d. P. Current Rupee, a circumstance deserving your most serious attention, as it affords grounds for supposing that it is not the rate of Exchange alone but the distant period of payment, that deters People from availing themselves of this remittance. It is however a strong proof, in favor of the Comparative Credit of your Treasury in Bengal.—

22. We are happy to think, that our Regulations effect, with an Exclusion to all partiality, and favor, the utmost that your Revenues are equal to in the regular discharge of the Interest on your Bonds in defraying the Expences of your Establishments in India, and in liquidating all that can be liquidated, of your Debts, bearing an Interest.—

23. The application of all the Funds that can be spared for the provision of a well selected Investment, and at the lowest prices, without a total Derangement of the usage of the Service, is the next operation which in Concert with general oeconomy, affords the best prospect of relief from your Embarrassments: To this most interesting object we have paid the utmost attention; and in the spirit of the Declaration made by this Council so early as the 18th October 1781 contained in the 24th Paragraph of the General Letter of that Date from the Secret Department we may truly say that we have supported this Branch of your affairs to the prejudice of any receipt of our own salaries which, prior to the Treasury arrangements of the 29th December last were ten months in arrear.—

24. We beg leave to correct a Mistake in the 27th Paragraph of our Letter of the 6th February last, which mentions our having permitted Lieutenant Fireworkers B. Boyce, and A. Bright [Briggs] to retire upon leave of Absence, and full Pay for three years. The former of these Gentlemen, is the person employed as our Indigo Agent, in the mode particularly pointed out to you in our Letter of the 7th March by the Dublin; the

Consn 24 Jan'y

latter having the customary Oath of qualification, for the benefit of Lord Clive's Fund, was furnished with the usual Certificates and resigned your Service.—

25. We forwarded to you by the Ships of last Season a memorial from Major Adderley, who had been dismissed your Service by the regular sentence of a Court Martial, approved by your Commander in Chief, Since that period he has delivered to us a supplementary memorial in further explanation of his own Case, Consn 6th Apl. to which we beg leave to refer; It is recorded in our Consultation of 6th April.—

26. An application was made to us thro' General Stibbert on the Consn 31st Augt. 31st of August last, to endeavor to recover for several 1785 Non-Commissioned and privates in your Army, their Shares of Prize Money of the Captures made by Commander Johnson [Johnstone] at Saldanha Bay's<sup>1</sup> and other places in the year 1781, to which they were entitled from their having acted as Marines in the different Ships of the Squadron,—the best mode that occurred to us for giving assistance to these people, was by proposing to them to forward to your Hon'ble Court a power of attorney to receive the amount of their Claims, whenever the Division should be made. In consequence of our advice Serjeant Patrick Mackin- Consn 22d March. non has transmitted to us the necessary Instrument regularly certified and attested; it goes a Number in the Packet, and we take the liberty of recommending their claim to your favorable attention and support.—

27. Lieutenant Colonel Kyd having been compelled by extreme Indisposition to leave the Ship on board of which Consn 4th April. he had embarked for Europe, upon her arrival at Coringa availed himself of the earliest opportunity of returning to Bengal, and we were happy in re-admitting to his Rank in your Service a Gentleman of whose Character and abilities we entertain the highest Opinion.—

28. We have also allowed Lieutenant Fireworker Ralph to return to his Duty on this Establishment as some unfore- Consn 21st Apl. seen Circumstances had occurred which prevented his taking advantage of the Furlough we had granted him on the 5th December last.—

29. We have permitted Lieutenant John Tailour to retire for three years upon full pay to be received in Bengal Consn 26th Apl. agreeable to our Regulations of the 19th August, and we have complied with an application from Lieutenant George Bie for his leave of absence to be extended, as he had 6th Do. unavoidably been detained at Tranquebar by an accident to the Ship he had embarked in: His Furlough is accordingly considered as having commenced on the 6th April.—

30. Some unexpected causes of Delay having occurred in the publication of the Hindee Grammar compiled by Captain Consn 6th Apl. Kirkpatrick, he addressed us a Letter of Apology in consequence, to which we beg leave to refer, and at the same time to

express our Opinion that thro' the Exertions of Captain Kirkpatrick, whose labours merit every encouragement, we have no doubt that this valuable work will speedily be represented to the public.—

31. We have thought proper to comply with an earnest solicitation from your Chief Engineer to be allowed a Clerk of the Consn 6th Apl. Works a Master, and Deputy Draftsman and an Officer of the Month with small salaries in addition to the regular Establishment to assist in surveying and inspecting the works, and to enable him to conduct the extensive Duties of his Office with regularity and expedition. The Chief Engineer represented these appointments to be absolutely necessary, and that from the attention of the persons employed the expence would ultimately be saved, as the business would be better performed.—

32. In the 28th and 29th Paragraphs of our Letter of the 7th March we recommended to your favorable consideration the Consn 6th do. Sons of the late Lieutenant Colonel Fortnom, whose case in every particular we thought highly deserving of your Compassion, The Sons of Colonel Hampton and Major Hessman, (the former of whom were made minor Cadets in 1771, the latter in 1777) have since intreated us to admit them into your Service on this Establishment; as they had attained the age prescribed by the Regulation under which they were appointed, and had received an Education suitable to your Military Service.—

33. Tho' we had not at this time received your positive Orders Genr. Letter dated reducing the allowance of Minor Cadets, we did not 21st Septr. conceive ourselves empowered, without particular directions from you, to comply with these applications: we promised to refer them to your Hon'ble Court which we now do, and we make no doubt but that the particular Circumstances of their situation will induce you to favor their request.—The long and faithful Services of their deceased Fathers, added to their present distressed situations, induce us to solicit their admission to your Service without any further delay, if you are of opinion that the nature of their Original Appointments, gives them the right to it immediately; or if your Orders, above alluded to have frustrated these expectations, we hope you will consider them in your first Nominations.—

34. We beg leave to request your attention to the singular situation in which the paymasters of your Army are placed, in consequence of your Orders of the 11th April, reducing them to the same allowances as were drawn before the Regulations established by this Government of the 3rd June 1780, were adopted.—

35. The failure of Paymasters in Balance to the Company occasioned those Regulations to be passed: The Offices in point of Emolument were put upon a Footing equal to the responsibility of the Trust. The Commission was granted as a Compensation for all Retrenchments made by the Commissary General, which from that period they were answerable for, and as the means of enabling them to give Security to a large amount to indemnify the Company against

all possible Losses; the risque was considered equivalent to the benefit derived, but without such benefit, the Security was never required or expected; your Orders have been literally obeyed but objections to the Security have been started: we did not however deem Ourselves at liberty to dispense with it, but we have promised to recommend their case, leaving it to you to determine the Compensation you may consider equivalent to their Services, on a Comparison between the allowances and advantages, granted to former Paymasters, and those enjoyed by the present.—

36. Our various Dispatches of last Season have apprized you of the numerous difficulties in which we were involved with the King's Troops in adjusting their accounts and the mode we adopted when (from the want of local information, or the necessary Guides) we found ourselves unable to satisfy their Demands, and at the same time pay due attention to your Interests.—

37. Experience has amply proved that by referring them to the Presidencies, at which the services charged for were performed, under a promise either of paying here such Demands as ever admitted or of granting Bills upon you for the amount, was the most advisable Plan both in point of Expedition, and in relieving the Company from many Claims which might have been deemed just, from our being unacquainted with the particular Circumstances under which they were incurred.—

38. We have only to inform you that we conceived ourselves in Justice bound to comply with the condition under which the Settlement of these Accounts was made, And therefore wherever Bills upon your Hon'ble Court were preferred we have granted them in the usual made, as your orders of the 15th September, reducing the rate of Exchange could not be supposed to have effect upon measures positively resolved on before those orders were known, tho' the Execution of those Resolutions was for unavoidable reasons postponed. A Register of the Bills granted on this Account, will be forwarded with the papers of this Packet.—

39. We think it necessary to apprise you that the military subjects abovementioned had passed, as will appear by referring to the proceedings noted against each paragraph, before your Orders of the 21st September which occasioned the new Arrangement, were received, all military Subjects since the 12th May will henceforward be treated on in the Secret Department.—

40. In consequence of repeated representations from the Master Attendant of the ruinous state of the Marine House, which were completely verified by Surveys, we were induced to give our Sanction to its being pulled down, and rebuilt: The expence of this Work will not be greater than to repair the Old House, as appears by various Estimates, the lowest of which, restricted to 30,000 Rupees, exclusive of the Old materials, was approved. We are satisfied that in the End this will be a considerable saving as the necessary annual repairs would shortly have exceeded the whole amount, and even then the

House, from the badness of its general Materials, could never have been reckoned secure.—

41. In the 10th paragraph of our Letter of the 1st August, last we advised you of our having adopted, at the recommendation of the Master Attendant, a plan for bringing the Company's Ships so high up the River as Diamond point.—The healthiness of this new station was fully evinced by the very small comparative loss of seamen sustained by your Ships last year. Our attention has been since Consn 31st Mch. occupied in the further improvements which were 26th Apl. deemed necessary, and we are happy to inform you that our most sanguine expectations have, in this Instance, been completely verified.—

42. We are persuaded that the Commanders of your Chartered Ships will most readily attest from their own observations, and Experience of former years, that the alterations will in the course of every Season, be the means of preserving to the state the Lives of a considerable number of the Seamen employed to this Port:—a Circumstance alone (Exclusive of numerous other advantages) of sufficient moment to have sanctioned the Expenditure of a much larger amount, than has been incurred on this Account. Indeed we are of opinion that the first charges of an undertaking, likely to prove so permanently beneficial should be totally set aside, and the established monthly Expence is too inconsiderable to be noticed: When this Work is completed, we shall furnish you with a plan of the place, and a detailed Account of the Expence incurred, the advantages which we must be derived[sic] to your Commercial Interests in India by this measure speak for themselves.—

43. Having been furnished by your Master Attendant with a report of the very indifferent state of the Pilot Vessels of Consn 28th March this Establishment, and being thoroughly convinced of the necessity of completing them with all possible Expedition, we called upon him to inform us of the exact Construction, Dimensions and every particular quality that he could recommend as most requisite for the constant Service, on which these Vessels Consn 6th Apl. are employed: We have forwarded the same to Bombay with a request that Six may be built in every respect, conformably to his Directions, and sent round as soon as they are finished, upon the arrival of any or all, we shall dispose of such of the old ones as are least serviceable that the Establishment may not be encreased.

44. Mr Henry Edgar Jeffry's who was a Midshipman on board the Brilliant when that Ship was wrecked at Johanna having presented a Memorial to us, setting forth that he had been very active in saving, for the Hon'ble Company, different articles of her Cargoe, which were afterwards delivered at Fort St George, and Captain Mears the Commander having attested to the Zeal, & Exertions Consn 12th June which were shewn by Mr Jeffry's on this Occasion we were induced as a reward for his Services to allow him 1000 Rupees.—

45. We have also granted a Compensation to Mr Raby of your Consn. 28th March. Pilot Service, who was captured in the Tannah 6th April Schooner, and detained a Prisoner for three years at Mauritius, as we considered his Sufferings equally deserving of our attention with those of other prisoners who had been rewarded on their return.—

46. An address to your Hon'ble Court from Captain William Richardson, who commanded the Nonsuch when that Ship was sent to China with Ophium, on Account of the Company; was transmitted to us by him from Bombay, & is now forwarded a Number in the Packet.—

47. You will herewith receive an account of Short Delivery of Cargoe Pr. the Oxford transmitted from Fort St George, in order that you may recover the amount from the Owners of that Ship.—

48. We are concerned to inform you that we have been reduced to the necessity of incurring a heavy Expence for the Construction of a new Bridge over Tolley's Nullah; the old one, or Surman's having with much difficulty been kept together till this time and being in a state totally incapable to Repair. The Letters from your Chief Engineer upon this subject, and the different modes which Consn 28th March. 21st, 26th April we proposed of effecting the work at the least possible Expence will appear upon our Proceedings noted in the Margin.—

49. A proposal having been made to us to purchase the Stabling appertaining to the House we lately bought from Mr Johnson for Public Offices, we were induced, as their Separate situation prevented their being turned to any useful purpose, and with a view to a Reduction of the Original Coast[sic] to pay attention to it, and accordingly directed the Ground, and Building to be valued by three of the oldest Inhabitants of Calcutta, And as we considered the valuation which they put upon it exceedingly favorable to the Company, we immediately resolved 26 do. to dispose of it. This measure lessens the price of our first purchase in the Sum of 6500 Sicca Rupees.—

50. We forward to you a separate Number in this packet Copy of a minute recorded by the Governor General introducing a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Kyd, proposing the Establishment of a Botanical Garden as a Nursery for rearing, and propagating, for public benefit, the productions of other Countries, as a means of encreasing the articles of Commerce, and improving the Culture of these provinces.—

51. We beg leave to refer you to the Letter itself for a fuller information of the Colonels expectations, and the Grounds upon which he has formed them: We are impressed with Conviction of the practicability of bringing this plan to maturity, without incurring any considerable expence, and shall take the most effectual measures to this End as soon as a suitable place is selected & the Governor

General shall have had leizure to furnish the plan he proposed for carrying it into execution.—

52. The cultivation of the Cinnamon and Pepper seems practicable, & we are sanguine in our expectations of greatly improving the Indigo plant, as well as of introducing the Date and Sago Trees, these may prove of infinite Service to this Country should it ever experience a failure in the Crops.—

53. The Drawings of plants alluded to will be put into the letter Packet by the Ranger that they may reach you in good preservation.—

54. Our Letter by the Winterton will have afforded you every information with respect to the Commencement, and progress of the Penang Expedition as late as the 21st March. We have now only to acquaint you that every necessary Preparation being complete, Captain Light's Instructions were delivered to him on the 2nd May, when he took his departure from Bengal, and the Eliza, and Prince Henry quitted their Pilots, and had a favorable Outset on the 16th of the same Month.—

55. We forward a Separate number in this Packet a Copy of the Instructions abovementioned as they will point out to you at one view the extensive Expectations which we have formed, and the eventual advantage which the Nation at large, as well as these Provinces may derive from the success of this undertaking.—

56. The Governments of Fort St George & Bombay have directed your Ships to touch at Pulo Penang, or whatever place Captain Light may have fixed on, in their route to China by which the advantages to be expected from this settlement will soon be known & established.

57. Our Accountant General having addressed a Letter, in reply to such parts of your Commands of the 8th July 1785, as related to his Department, and were in course communicated to him, we transmit a Copy thereof a number in the packet for your Information.

58. An address to your Hon'ble Court from the Grand-Lodge of Free Masons of Bengal, goes a number in the Packet, claiming the sum of Current Rupees 2475-0-6 the amount paid into your Treasury before the Capture of Calcutta in 1756, by Messrs. Brown and Mapletofts, for which a Certificate was granted bearing Date the 17th October 1757: this Sum is stated to have been paid into the Treasury on account that Society, and as the representation wears a fair appearance, We recommend it to your consideration to authorize us to discharge the same.—

59. By this conveyance we transmit you the Report of our agent for stationary on that received Pr. the Ganges with a muster of the damaged paper, according to your directions in the 15th Paragraph of your General Letter of the 24th February 1786 by which we are much pleased to find that you have attended to the representation

in our Letter of the 22nd February 1785, and complied fully with our last annual Indent for that article.—

60. In conformity to the Orders contained in the 23rd paragraph Consn 11th, 31st of your General Letter of the 22nd December 1785 July respecting the Madeira Wine; We requested the Board of Trade would cause such as was brought by the Manship to be examined by three respectable Merchants of this place, who were judges of that article, accompanied by the Company's Cooper this was accordingly done, and their Report transmitted to us by the Board of Trade goes a number in the packet.—

61. We beg leave to recommend to your human Consideration the request of Mr Richard Pierce Son of the late unfortunate Captain Pierce of the Halsewell to be appointed to your Civil Service in your next nomination, and we trust the respectable character of his father, and the unhappy situation of his family, joined to our favorable Opinion of the Young Man, will have a successfull influence with your Hon'ble Court; Mr Pierce has been employed three years in the Secretary's Office of the Board of Trade & has acquitted himself with great diligence and attention.—

62. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows.

	C Rs.	
Ready Money . . . . .	420,230	8 7
Amount retained for the discharge of cash deposits	182,279	14 9
Amount retained for discharge of interest on Bonds	191,746	3 2
Amount retained for the discharge of old Paper .	145,601	13 1
Current Rupees .	9,39,858	7 7
Balance acct. deposits . . . . .	CRS.	715,709 15 8
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court		116,918 3 3
Balance of the old Bonded Debt on which the intt. has ceased by Public advertisement . . . .		45,117 0 8
New Bonded debt at 8 per cent P annum . . .		156,63,208 13 8
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .		20,000 0 0
		165,96,954 1 0

Fort William

We are &ca

the 21st August 1786.

[Endorsement]

Pub 1786 Dept Fort William 21st August.

General Letters from the Hon'ble the Governor General & Council  
to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors abst CB per Severn

Entered V.M.

## LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1786

*Proposal to build coppered vessels in Bengal—acquisition of land for Botanical Garden in Calcutta.*

To the Hon'ble the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our last Letter from this Department was forwarded by the Pub. Deptt. Severn Snow and Ranger Packet, the latter also conveyed to you our Proceedings from the beginning of March to the End of July with Separate Indexes for each month.—

2. We now transmit our Consultations for August and of the Meetings held in September prior to Earl Cornwallis's arrival and in this Separate Letter we shall mention the few Subjects which came before us at those Meetings and which are deserving particular Notice.—

3. We are happy to inform you that the Hillsborough imported here, on the 13th, the William Pitt on the 14th, and the Walpole on the 15th. By the former we received your Letter of the 8th of March, and by the William Pitt that of the 14th of the same Month, both of these were duly considered on the 21st and the Orders arising therefrom with the Papers accompanying, were issued in the usual manner to the Heads of Offices and Others Concerned as will appear from our Proceedings of that Date.—

4. The Hillsborough having passed Fort St George without leaving your Consignments for that Presidency, We called upon Captain Hardcastle to state the Causes which had induced him to deviate from your Instructions. His answer, which alledges, that He was out in his Reckoning, and unable to make the Island of Ceylon, not being altogether satisfactory, We thought proper to Order a Court of Enquiry consisting of your Master Attendant your Naval Store Keeper and three of the Senior Captains of your Chartered Ships to assemble for the purpose of ascertaining, whether the reasons set forth in the Hillsborough's Log Book were sufficient to justify bearing away to Bengal.—The result of this Enquiry will be communicated by a future conveyance.—

5. Fully convinced that it would not be in our power to load the Lansdown this Season, We immediately on the receipt of your Letter of the 8th March availed ourselves of the Clause in that Ship's Charter Party, which Stipulates that in case a Cargoe cannot be provided for her at Madras or in Bengal she shall be sent to China.—To this End We took the earliest Opportunity of Communicating our situation to the Presidency of Fort St George and directed them to dispatch the Lansdown by the Eastern Passage to China, touching on her at Fort Marlbro' for such Pepper as might be in store there, if the Season would admit of it.

We considered this measure as the most likely means of relieving you from the heavy Demurrage which her Detention here would have occasioned, and indeed the only chance of securing her return to Europe this Season.—

6. We have already apprized you of the bad State of some of the Pilot Vessels in this River and of the application which we were under the necessity of making to Bombay for Six new ones. Mr Price your Naval Store Keeper has since addressed us a Letter on this subject, in which after recapitulating the State of the vessels now in use, the Duties to which they ought at all times to be equal, the Expence attending their Construction, here and at Bombay, the Delays to be unavoidably expected in their building at the latter Place from the want of Money and the present immediate urgency of the Service, He proposed to build four Coppered Vessels in Bengal within twelve Months at the Medium Price between the Charges incurred for four formerly constructed at Bombay, and four others built in Bengal as extracted from the Books of his office. At this time we had been advised from Bombay, that the Keels for two had been layed, but the period for their being finished was not specified, as most probably that greatly depended on the receipt of the means to expedite them Tho' we had every Reason to confide in Mr Price's Exertion and Responsibility and tho' we felt the force of his Declaration respecting the Condition of the Schooners now in use, we did not at this period think proper to enter into the Engagement proposed, but deferred it for future Consideration of which you will be hereafter informed.—

7. At the recommendation of your Naval Storekeeper for the better Security of your Chartered Ships and to turn to some use Articles which could not otherwise be employed here, we authorized him and the Master Attendant to Collect and lay the Mooring Chains in Store, at Diamond Point. The Expence incurred on this Account has been considerable; We have directed a Statement to be prepared with particular references to the Charges of each Ship, to be forwarded for your Information and adjustment with the Owners at home and as this measure will furnish you with some relief against the heavy Charge of freight which will become due on their arrival in England, we hope you will approve our adopting it.—

8. In our proceedings noted in the Margin you will observe Letter from the Board of Trade accompanying a Statement of reductions in their Departments and arrangements and alterations throughout that Branch of your Service, which they recommended to be enforced. These we entirely confirmed, and we are happy to inform you that a saving of 15,000 Rupees Pr. Month 1,80,000 P annum is effected by it.—

9. We have thought proper to authorize under certain precautions the Exchange of large Bonds for smaller, making the same amount in the aggregate. Small Bonds being more easily negotiated We entertain hopes by this means of encreasing the number of Subscribers to the Remittances which your Letter of the 15th September 1785, has granted.—

10. Lieutenant Colonel Kyd having after much enquiry, selected a spot of Ground called Muggah Tannah, which he is of Opinion will fully answer the purpose of the Botanical Garden particularly mentioned in our last Dispatches, we have directed the present proprietors to be prevailed upon to relinquish their Rights either for pecuniary Compensation or for the Grant of other Ground instead, as soon as that is effected, Colonel Kyd will commence his undertaking and we hope our future Communications on this subject will inform you of it's progress and that it fully answers our Expectations.—

11. We forward to you by this Packet a report from our Agent for Consn 9th Sepr. Stationary on that Article received Pr. the Earl of Oxford.—

appd. JMP

12. The state of the Treasuries this day is as follows.—

Appd. CS.

State of the General Treasury the 11th September 1786			
		C Rs.	
Ready Money . . . . .		70,715	13 3
Amount retained for the discharge of Cash } .		182,279	14 9
Deposits }			
Amount retained for the discharge of interest on Bonds . . . . .		268,564	3 5
Amount retained for the discharge of old Papers		139,640	5 11
Current Rupees . . . . .		661,200	5 4
Balance Accot. Deposits . . . . .		751,709	15 8
Balance accmpt. General to the Mayor's Court .		116,918	3 3
Balance of the old Bonded on which the Interest has ceased by Public advertisement . . . . .		45,117	0 8
New Bonded debt at 8 per cent . . . . .		15,663,208	13 5
4 per cent Remittance Loan . . . . .		20,000	0 0
		1,65,96,954	1 0

Fort William

11th Sepr. 1786.

[Endorsement]

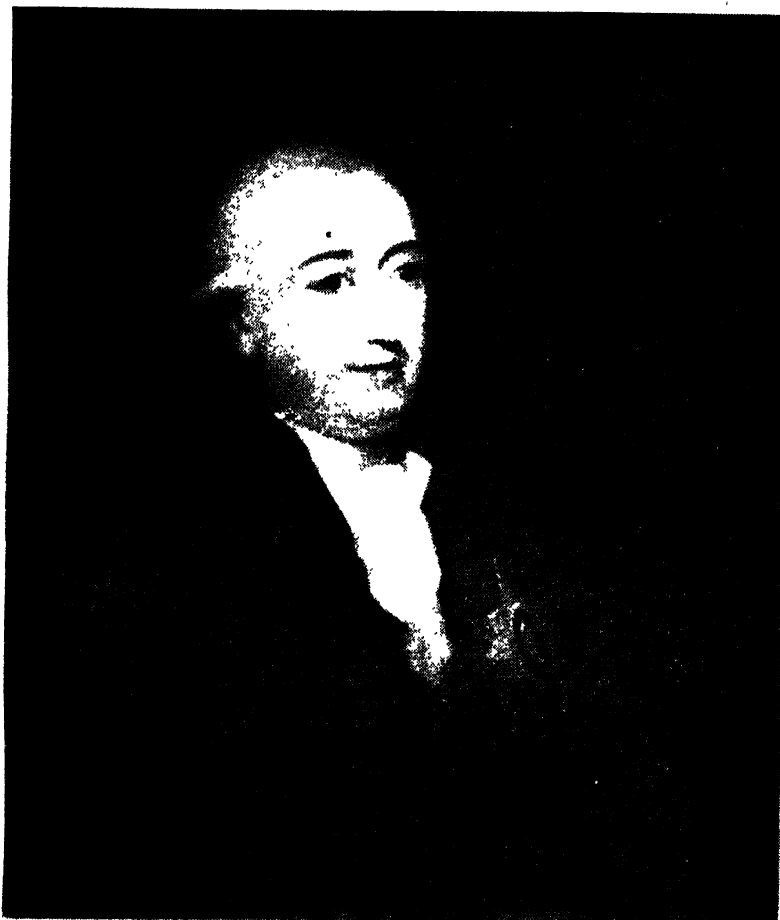
Errors Expected

F. Mure

Sub. Trear.

Pub 1786 Dept. Draft of General Letter to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, Dated 11th September Per Swallow, Entd O.G. Entered V.M.





Photomontage

Image of Lord Cornwallis, November 1800

*Cornwallis*

**The Marquess of Cornwallis**

## LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1786

## LORD CORNWALLIS ASSUMES CHARGE

**T**O the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs

Certain intelligence having been received from Fort St George of the arrival of the Right Hon'ble Charles Earl Cornwallis, whom by the 4th Paragraph of the General Letter of the 8th March you had appointed to the Office of Governor General, your late Administration resolved to detain the Ranger Packet, until His Lordship should land in Bengal, that we might have the satisfaction of communicating that Event to your Hon'ble Court, and that His Lordship might have an opportunity of forwarding his Dispatches to England. We have now the honor to acquaint you that Earl Cornwallis landed at Fort William on the 12th Instant; that a meeting of Council was thereupon held, and that His Lordship assumed the Government according to the terms of the Commission sent out in the Swallow Packet which was immediately read at the Head of the Troops in Garrison,— Ordered to be published at the several Stations of the Army, and proclaimed on the following Day throughout the Town of Calcutta, as will more fully appear by a reference to our Proceedings of the 12th Instant, forwarded by the present Conveyance a Number in the Packet.—

We also forward a number in the Packet Copy of a Minute delivered in by Mr Macpherson.—

So few days having elapsed since the arrival of Lord Cornwallis in this Country, he wishes to decline entering by the present Opportunity into any Detail on the Affairs of Government, until the next Dispatch by which time a longer Residence will have enabled him to acquire a more accurate and minute acquaintance with the public interests.

We are concerned to inform you that the Severn Packet was lost on the night of the 9th Instant at the Mouth of the River.

Fort William

18th Sepr. '86.

Ex. N.B. Edminstone

We have the honor to be Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants

[Endorsement]

Pub. 1786 Deptt. General Letter to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, Dated the 18th September Per Ranger Entered V.M.O.G.

## LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1786

*Various shipping arrangements—proposal for buying a ship for defence of the coast of Sumatra deemed unnecessary—offices of inspection and purchase of 'drugs' not to be united in one person—mooring chains for Diamond Harbour—remittances to Madras in the form of rice and opium.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have now the Honor to address you by the Swallow Packet, Captain Anderson, Earl Cornwallis having thought it necessary to return this Ship immediately to England for the purposes particularly mentioned in His Lordship's Letters to your Hon'ble Court.

2. By the Ranger we forwarded the Consultations in the Public Department from 2nd March to the 31st July inclusive, and by this Conveyance you will receive complete Copies of the Proceedings in August, September and October with Separate Indexes to each Month.

3. You will at the same time receive Triplicate General Letter P Severn under date the 21st August and Duplicate of the Letter by the Ranger of the 18th September together with a Separate Letter dated the 11th Ultimo, containing an account of the principal Transactions of the Board from the beginning of August to the Period on which Mr. Macpherson delivered over charge of the Government to Earl Cornwallis, which is the first number in this Packet.—

4. It therefore only rests with us by the present Dispatch to continue a Detail of the Proceedings in the Public Department since the above period to the 30th ultimo.—

5. The Ravensworth Captain Roddam arrived here on the 12th and the Lansdown, Captain Story, on the 22nd September the Letter from this Government requesting the Gentlemen at Fort St. George to dispatch Captain Story to China not having arrived in time for that purpose.

6. This Circumstance and the Foulis having imported here on the 4th of October gave us with the Queen, hourly expected from Bombay, thirteen Ships, while the Resources, of this Government altho' strained to their greatest limits only admitted of advances for the Investment of the present Season of 86,000,00 of Current Rupees, this Sum, added to the Goods already in your Warehouses, and expected Balances amounted to One Crore, and twelve Lacs of Rupees. An Amount, even should the whole be received in time to be loaded before the 10th March only sufficient to afford Cargoes for Nine Ships at the reduced rate of Twelve Lacs each; whereas there will be in Bengal Eleven large Ships, and two small ones.

7. It therefore became a matter of Importance to avert the loss to which the Company would be liable by your sending out so many

**Ships this Season, To load them on the Company's account was absolutely impossible, to convey goods home on account of individuals might be attended with prejudicial consequences to your Interests, and to lay them up here would subject you to a very heavy Demurrage to be paid in England, we therefore did not hesitate to resolve immediately that all the Surplus Tonnage should be sent to China, But as this measure was likely to affect the Advantages of many of your Commanders it became a question to whose Lot it should fall. to determine this with Justice to all, we resolved that the regular Bengal Ships should be dispatched according to their arrival at their first consigned Port, or in other words from the Period, on which commenced Demurrage.**

**8. This Rule will not be deviated from but in the usual cases when a Member of Government takes his Passage on a particular Ship, and wishes to Sail at a particular period, which has been the case in respect to the William Pitt, the late Commander in Chief having requested that Captain Mitchell may be ordered to accommodate him with a Passage, and loaded in time, to sail on the 16th of December and we were pleased with the opportunity of shewing our attention to Lieutenant General Sloper, by complying with his Wishes.**

**9. The Talbot originally intended for China was sent here by the Fort St. George Presidency with a request that Captain Taylor might be returned for the Madras Cargoe which having been agreed to, in the Consultation noted in the Margin we did not think it necessary to make any charges in the Destination of this Ship.**

Consn 22nd Septr.  
Consn 18th May  
Consn 12th June

**10. We accordingly resolved to dispatch The Phoenix & Manship on the 21st November with leave to touch at Fort St. George.**

Consn 22nd Septr.

Ganges 15th & William Pitt 16th	}	December, Direct.
Berrington & Oxford	}	15th January
Queen & Walpole	}	as soon as Cargoes can be provided for them.

**11. As the above Ships would afford sufficient Tonnage for all the Goods likely to be received before the period limited by Charterparty for their final Departure from Bengal, we resolved to dispatch the Hilsbro' and Lansdown as they were Coppered by the Eastern Passage to China, and Ordered the respective Commanders to hold themselves in readiness to sail on the 1st of November.**

Consn 22nd Septr.

**12. The Foulis not being sheathed in the copper and unlikely from the situation of her Bottom, in consequence of the length of**

her voyage to India, to arrive in China by the Eastern Passage so as to save the Season, We resolved that part of the Salt Petre sent annually to Bombay should be put on Board this Ship, and the Captain Blachford should afterwards convey Cotton on account the Company to China.

13. Your agreement with Captain Roddam relieved us from any Embarrassment on account of the Ship under his Command, as we had the option of either detaining her in the Service, or throwing her upon the Owners for one Year.

14. At this time there was a plan before the Board to purchase Fort Marlbro' a vessel for the Defence of the Coast of Sumatra,—  
 Proceedgs. One was offered by Captain Price at 80,000 Rupees,  
 Consn 7th Sept. and he estimated her outfit at 30,000 more, besides the usual Monthly charges.

15. On this occasion the Governor General entered a Minute expressive of his having taken under his consideration the late Letters from Bencoolen, and the intelligence received of the Capture of Tappanoully, One of the Subordinates to that Residency, together with Mr Price's Tender of the Ship Laurel, and informing us that it had been an Object of his attention to prevent so heavy an Expence as the Purchase of this vessel would incur, which he thought might be effected by employing the Ravensworth on the Service required which might be done at a very cheap rate, vizt. £ 14-2-7 Pr diem from the 22nd December.

16. We could not but approve of this plan as it not only prevents a very heavy disbursement on account the Residency of Fort Marlbro', the Expences of which, you have limited to 27,000 £ P annum But it will also save the Expence of taking up a Packet in August next, as we mean to order Captain Roddam to return here early in July to be sent home with a Cargoe, and the principal accounts of this Government.

17. We request you will refer to the Minutes delivered in on this occasion by the Governor General, and by Mr Macpherson which will explain our Intentions, and Expectations more at large.

18. Soon after we had resolved to dispatch the Hilsborough and Lansdown by the Eastern Passage to China, we received a Proposal from Mr John Fergusson offering to take upon his own account the latter Ship, from the Day on which she might deliver her outward bound Cargoe, and engaging to return her to the Company's Agents in China between the 1st August, and 1st November next.

19. The object we had in view when we resolved to send these Ships to China being effected by this Offer, we readily acquiesced in Mr Fergusson's Proposal, to which we were farther induced by his offering to pay the amount of the Demurrage, from the Day the Lansdown is ready to receive her Cargoe, vizt. the 10th November, into the Company's Treasury at Canton, which will afford a very reasonable remittance to the Supracargoes at China.—

20. Messrs Bayne & Colvins having made a Tender to take the Hilsborough on similar Conditions We, for the same reason accepted their Proposal.—  
 Consn 29 Sept.

21. We cannot close this subject, without requesting your Orders respecting the period of Dispatch of your Ships from India, whether it is in future to be determined according to their arrival at their Moorings in this River, or from the Commencement of Demurrage, In either Case, one Inconvenience occurs as in the Instance of the Hilsborough as that Ship might have arrived here earlier than one dispatched at the same time by passing Madras, And this might have brought her on Demurrage before the Ship going to Madras in Obedience to Orders.

22. And as many difficulties have been started against making the Eastern Passage we must request you will direct the Companys Hydrographer to frame Instructions for Commanders dispatched from hence by that Route between the 1st September, and 31st December, and that they may be sent here.

23. On the 20th October we received a Letter from Captain Ley of the Berrington representing that his Ship had sprung a Leak, and requesting permission to bring her to Town for the purpose of heaving down, this we immediately granted, but on the following Day he acquainted us that she could be with safety repaired at Diamond point, which would save much time, and on the 10th Instant we had the pleasure to receive a Letter from him dated the 7th November reporting that the Work would be completed by the Evening of that Day. We think it necessary to send you a Copy of this Letter a number in the Packet as it tends to explain the cause of the Leak.  
 Consn 23d Octr.

24. The 4th Paragraph of our Letter of the 11th September apprized you of Captain Hardcastle in the Hilsborough having passed Fort St. George we are now to refer to the Consultation noted in the Margin for the Report given in by the Court of Enquiry instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of Captain Hardcastle's not touching at that place, and we leave it to your Hon'ble Court to decide whether the reasons set forth by that Commander together with the Consultation he held with his Officers, justify his non-compliance with your positive Instructions.  
 Consn 22d Sept.

25. Captain Williamson of the Ganges having applied for a quadruplicate set of his Certificates to replace the first set lost in the Severn, we directed the Accountant General to comply with his request as likewise with any other Application of a similar nature that might be made.

26. In the Consultation noted in the Margin is recorded a Letter from the Board of Trade acquainting us that several of the Commanders of your Chartered Ships had represented to them the insufficiency of the allotted quantity of 3000 Bags of Salt Petre for each to answer the purpose of the necessary Ballast, and requesting that we would augment it to 5000 Bags urging to our Consideration the reduced price of this Article as an Inducement for complying with their request.—  
 Consn 23d Octr.

27. To this we gave a positive refusal founded on the Orders contained in the 31st Paragraph of your General Letter of the 21st September which directs that no more than the quantity expressed in the respective Charter parties be laden on each Ship; and also States that you have a stock equal to three years Consumption on hand, And on the Consideration that it would be more for your interest even to lay up one or two Ships on Demurrage than to put you to many charges at home as well as a considerable Disbursement here, to provide an Article declared unsaleable.

28. We cannot in this Place omit calling to your Notice that altho' your Orders positively mention "the quantity of Salt Petre expressed in the Charterparties of the respective Ships" yet upon a reference to those Charterparties no such Condition appears, And as this might have been a Cause of some Embarrassment, we request that you will in future, direct that the quantity of Salt Petre be specified in each Charterparty.—

29. In consequence of our arrangements of the 22d. September  
 Consn 18 Octr. by which the Hillsborough, and Lansdown were let out to Freight we received two Letters from their Commanders, Captains Hardcastle, and Story, requesting that we would indulge them with permission to send home on Freight this Season Goods equal to the quantity they would have been allowed in their respective Privileges had they been dispatched from hence to Europe,—this request being, in our Judgement, reasonable we complied with it on the same conditions allowed to those who shipped Goods in March last on the Winterton.

30. We have since received a similar application from Captain  
 Consn 8 Novr. Blachford of the Foulis, and considering him in the same situation with the two former Gentlemen have acquiesced in his request this Indulgence we have declared to be independent of the usual Privilege granted to the Commanders, and Officers from China.

31. By the Ranger's Packet we transmitted you the Report of  
 Genl. Letter 21 three Gentlemen, who had been requested to examine  
 Augt. Para 60. the quality of the Madeira wine received by the  
 Consn 21 Augt. Manship, in consequence of which, and deeming a  
 Sale the best Test that could be obtained, we directed the Board of Trade to dispose of it by Public Auction, And when we received a further report of the Wine brought out by the Walpole  
 Consn 29 Sept. We for the same reason directed the Board of Trade to cause it to be sold, and now transmit you, numbers in the Packet, the Copies of that Report, and of a Letter from the  
 Consn 8th Novr. Board of Trade, stating the Medium Price for which the whole was sold to be Rupees 368-8-9 P Pipe. In contrasting this Rate with former Prices, it should be remembered that the Company's Madeira has hitherto been invariably kept one year in the Country, whereas the present sale was immediately on the arrival of the Wine.

32. Mr. Prager, whom in your Letter of the 12th April 1786 you  
 Consn 9 Octr. have directed "to be employed in the purchase, and Inspection of the Company's Drugs for Europe" has

submitted to us sundry Regulations for giving Effect to his Appointment.—

33. When we consider that an implicit Compliance with the Proposal submitted by Mr. Prager would from it's very comprehensive meaning, tend to establish a Monopoly, and thereby affect the Industry lately exerted by individuals for the Improvement of various productions of this Country, and especially of Indigo, we did not think it prudent to give an immediate assent to his Proposal, but deferred it to a future Opportunity, when We shall have acquired fuller Information on this Subject.

34. We cannot help remarking that uniting the Offices of Inspector and Purchaser in one Person is bestowing a degree of confidence and Influence not possessed by any of your Servants, And we should deem it much more advantageous both for the Public and Company's Interests, were they separated, and Mr. Prager appointed Inspector only with the Commission upon the Profits allowed by you.—

35. In the Letter to your Hon'ble Court of the 11th September, you were informed of the Directions which had been given respecting the Mooring Chains ordered to be laid at Diamond Point for the Hon'ble Company's Chartered Ships, We have now the satisfaction to inform you that this Service has been completely effected.—

36. A letter from the Naval Storekeeper, recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin, recapitulates the Proceedings of this Government at different times relative to this Subject, and points out the kind of Chains and Anchors which he would recommend your Hon'ble Court to send out for the purpose, impressed with an Opinion that great advantage is derived to the Company's Ships by laying at these Mooring, and entirely acquiescing in the Sentiments expressed by the Naval Store Keeper, we cannot but give his recommendation our support, and request you will be pleased to send out the Chains & ca. which he desires.—

37. The Expence incurred by the Company in laying these Moorings has been very considerable vizt. CRs. 56,240-8 an Account of which with Copies of the vouchers go numbers in the Packet, but to this must be added the Prime Cost in England of some, with the Freight, Interest of Money, and the Expence of keeping them in Order, when these sums are added together your Hon'ble Court will be able to settle the Monthly Charge which the Owners of each Ship should pay, and we beg leave to refer the Adjustment of this to you, as the Amount paid in England will be the means of effecting a Remittance and enable you to set off a Considerable Sum against the Demands for Freight, we propose from Time to Time to send you the Certificates of the Harbour-Master, and Commanders of the number of days the respective Ships have been at the Moorings.—

38. The Master Attendant, and Marine Pay Master, applied to us to allow them a Commission upon the Amount disbursed for this Service, but as your Hon'ble Court have directed us to refer applications of this nature to you, they were accordingly informed that we had left their claim to your Decision.—

39. Having reconsidered a proposal made by Mr. Joseph Price for building in Bengal four of the Six Vessels mentioned in the 43d. Paragraph of our Letter of the 21st August, it is only necessary in this place to acquaint you we rejected it in consequence of the President and Council of Bombay having informed us that they had already taken the necessary measures for constructing some of these Vessels, And that the rate proposed by Mr Price was greater than that, at which the Bombay Government estimate the Expence of building them: Another powerful inducement, if such was necessary for this measure, is the certainty that Bombay Vessels, not only last longer than all others, but are of superior Workmanship to any ever built in Bengal

40. Mr. Thomas Crotty who it seems was permitted by the 10th Paragraph of your Letter of the 28th April last to proceed to Bengal as a Shipwright in the Company's Employ having requested that we would assign him some Employment, and defray his Expences, we in consequence desired the Master Attendant to point out in what manner he might be made useful to the Company, his reply sets forth that the only Post, in which Mr. Crotty's Services might be wanted, is already filled by another Person appointed to it some time past by this Government, we were therefore under the necessity of creating a new Office for Mr Crotty, that of Deputy Carpenter to the Company, and annexed to it a salary of Forty Rupees p. Month.

41. Having allotted the sum of Forty Lacs of Current Rupees for the Supplies to Fort St. George in the present year as advised in our address of the 21st August, the remittance of this supply became an object of Serious attention.

42. Desirous of relieving the Company from the high rate of Exchange between that Presidency, and Bengal as well as to remove the destructive consequences of exporting Specie, we requested the Government of Madras to obtain the Sentiments of their Board of Trade upon the practicability of effecting these objects, and desired they would point out such modes as were likely to check a measure ruinous in the Extreme to these Provinces.—

43. To our Letter, and the reply of the Madras Presidency we beg leave to refer,—by the latter it appears that Rice to the quantity of about three hundred thousand Bags, and One thousand Chests of Ophium, are the only Articles recommended.—

44. Previous to this information the Madras Agent, to whom large advances were issued for Supplies of Rice, and stores was called upon to state the exact quantity and amount of each Article dispatched in the course of the Season, and the actual Engagements he had made on this Account, and an Advertisement inviting Proposals for the supply of 50,000 Bags of Rice by Contract, had been issued as an Experiment which we were hopeful would prove advantageous to the Company.

45. Our Proceedings in the Conclusion of this Contract which are detailed in the Consultation noted in the Margin we Consn 31st Octr. flatter ourselves will meet your approbation, as the Proposals of each Individual were duly Considered, and the Musters of Rice which accompanied them were particularly and impartially examined, And the Engagements which we have entered into with Mr. Tyler, are, we believe, the lowest that have ever been effected, vizt. 4-12 P. Bag.

46. On the subject of the Madras Letter above mentioned, we beg leave to call your attention to a minute delivered by the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Governor General on the Day these Contracts were made, and to your Reply in Consequence.

47. For the reasons set forth in this Minute, in which we entirely coincide, we have determined to confine the Remittances to Fort St. George, in the way of Commerce for the present Consn 31st Octr. Season to the Articles of Rice, and Ophium, and to restrict the quantity of the latter to 200 Chests and we shall desire the Madras Board to draw upon us for the Expences of the Kings Troops as they fall due in the course of next Season as the Engagements we have entered into on account of that Presidency will more than amount to the Sum allotted them for the present year.

48. We shall endeavor, and we hope succeed, to reduce the Exchange to the Standard formerly in use, when our Situation in point of Finances, by the diminution of our Outstanding Balances is improved, the Confidence of Merchants in the certainty of their Demands upon us being discharged in due course must encrease, and the failure of this circumstance must in a great measure account for the Exchange against Bengal having so long remained at the present exorbitant rate.

49. By the next Dispatch, we shall communicate to you the arrangements we are about to make relative to the Residency of Bencoolen, and the Infant Settlement formed at Penang since called Prince of Wales's Island.

50. Mr. Robert Holt, a Civil Servant upon this Establishment, has Consn 31st Octr. requested our Permission, on account of his Health, to return to England upon the Pension granted to Servants of his standing, who are out of Employ from their Offices being abolished, which we complied with, and have accordingly allowed him leave of Absence for three years. This Gentleman proceeds in consequence on the Swallow.

51. Mr. William Atkinson has likewise requested our Permission to return to Europe for the Adjustment of his private affairs for three years upon Leave of Absence which we have granted.

52. We transmit you a number in this Packet a Memorial from Mr. Thomas Dashwood on the abolition of his Salary as Register of

Natives subject to the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal. We cannot pass over the Name of this Gentleman without introducing him to your notice as a Servant whose public Conduct has been satisfactory, and whose private Character is respectable.

53. Mr. John Bebb, Attorney to Mr. P. M. Dacres, having received Instructions from his Constituent to deliver up the Conditional Bonds remaining in his Possession which had been granted to Mr. Dacres by this Government; for a Commission on Coral & ca. We have, in Pursuance of your Commands of the 11th April 1785 caused them to be cancelled.

54. As you have not in the General Letter of the 15th September 1785 specifically denoted the period to which the Interest on your Bonded Debts in India, to be discharged by Bills of Exchange is to be computed, and which will consequently determine when the Bills will become due, the Accountant General has suggested to us the propriety of dating all the Bills or Bonds Subscribed before the 9th August on that Day to be numbered in the Order of their Delivery at his Office, and those subscribed between the 8th August and 10th October on the dates of their Subscription, considering this Proposal to be just both in respect to the Company, and the Individuals we acquiesced in it.

55. The Accountant General in a Subsequent Letter recommended the advantage that might attend an extension of the period limited for the receipt of Subscriptions to your Proposals of the 15th September 1785, as the amount subscribed here bears a very small proportion to your Expectations, not having received the Official Statements from the other Presidencies, we cannot at present judge whether that plan has met with greater Success there, we readily adopted his Recommendation having reason to imagine that Several persons would subscribe if the Term was prolonged, And being convinced of the necessity that the Spirit of your Orders should be fulfilled, as far as lays in our power, we accordingly resolved to extend the period for the receipt of Subscriptions to the 28th February next.

56. We beg leave to call your attention to a Letter from Mr. Thomas Pigou, recorded in the Proceedings of the 31st October, requesting to be appointed a Writer in the Hon'ble Company's Service upon this Establishment; The particular Situation of Mr. Pigou is detailed in his Letter, and is such as to induce us to recommend his request to your favorable Attention. Independent of the Misfortunes of his Father, while in the Company's Service, which certainly give him some Claim upon the Company, we think him justly deserving your Patronage, as a Young Man of great application, and of promising abilities as is testified by the Secretary, under whom he has served for a considerable time.

57. We transmit a number in the Packet, a Report of the Stationary Compn 18th Octr. received at this Presidency by the Hilsborough.

58. The state of the Treasury this Day is as follows:-

Ready Money . . . . .	4,96,804	9	8
Amount retained for the discharge of Cash Deposits	1,82,279	14	9
Amount retained for the discharge of interest on Bonds . . . . .	3,20,540	3	11
Amount retained for the discharge of old Paper . . . . .	2,03,506	2	1
Current Rupees	12,03,130	14	5
Balance account Deposits . . . . .	7,49,451	3	5
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918	3	3
Balance of the old Bonded Debt on which the interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117	0	8
New bonded Debt at 8 P cent . . . . .	1,44,21,279	15	2
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0	0
	1,53,52,766	6	6

Fort William

We have the honor to be &c.

13th November 1786

Compd Mahon

[Per Swallow]

12

LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1786

*Shipping—State of the Treasury.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The Phoenix and Manship having received on board their Pub. Deptt. Cargoes, We dispatch them to your Hon'ble Court with permission to touch at Fort St. George for the purpose of receiving the advices of that Government.

2. By these Ships you will receive Duplicates and Triplicates of our advices by the Swallow.

3. The Amount of the Phocnisc's Cargoe is . . . 11,94,000

And the Amount of the Manship . . . 11,99,500

C Rs. . . . 23,93,500

The state of this Treasury this Day is as follows:—

	CRS.
Ready Money . . . . .	8,615,43 13 10
Balance Account Deposits . . . . .	5,71,150 12 6
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918 3 3
Balance of the Old Bonded debt on which the in- terest has ceased by Public advertisement .	45,117 0 8
New Bonded debt at 8 P Cent . . . . .	1,43,06,279 15 2
New Bonded debt accot. Militry. Arrears .	19,90,490 8 -6
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000 0 0
	<hr/> 1,70,49,956 8 1

Fort William

We have the honour to be Hon'ble Sirs

The 29th November, 1786

Your most faithful  
humble servants

Ed. WM

[Per Phoenix]

13

## LETTER DATED 28 DECEMBER 1786

*Rice for Madras, gunpowder for Bombay and cotton for China—  
Desertions from European Corps being encouraged by officers of ships  
despite definite orders to the contrary.*

**T**O the Court of Directors

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our last Letter from this Department was forwarded in Original and Duplicate by the Manship & Phoenix, the former of these Ships  
Pub. Dept.      quitted her Pilot on the 6th the latter on the 11th  
Consn 13 Dec.      Instant.

2. We have now the pleasure to address you by the William Pitt, and to transmit by Captain Mitchel [sic] the Broken Sett of our Consultations for the Month of November with Index. Those for December will be forwarded in the Talbot and we hope that the Complete Sett for the year 1786 will be in readiness to be sent by the Berrington.

3. We beg leave to acquaint you that the Ranger Packet reached  
Consn 8th May      Madras on the 10th of October and proceeded from  
thence with Dispatches for your Hon'ble Court on  
the 15th of the same Month the Swallow quitted her Pilot on the

22nd November and was finally dispatched from Fort St. George on the 4th Instant.

4. We are concerned to inform you that Captain Williamson of the Ganges departed this Life on the 19th Ultimo. He is succeeded in the Command of that Ship by Mr. Gainault, the Chief Officer, who has been sworn in, in the usual Manner.

5. The President and Council of Fort St. George having acquainted us that the whole of the 1100 Bales which they originally destined for the Talbot, could not be completed before the latter end of January and Mr. Stables at the same time, announcing to us that it was his Intention to embark for Europe in that Ship & his wish to sail in the beginning of January we thought proper to direct the Board of Trade to prepare a Cargoe for her accordingly, leaving vacant Tonnage for 700 Bales, and we altered the Destination of the Berrington that Captain Ley might call at Fort St. George for the purpose of receiving the remaining 400 Bales: In order however that this latter Ship, might arrive upon the Coast in sufficient time to be dispatched from thence finally within the Charter Party period, We judged it adviseable to allot a Cargo for her immediately in Succession after the Talbot. This measure will not in fact make any material alteration to the Ganges, whose Destination being direct no great Loss can arise from her short detention.

6. Our Dispatches by the Swallow will have made known to you the Plans which we had carried into Execution for effecting our Remittances to Fort St. George. in addition thereto we have entered into Engagements for a further supply of Rice to the Extent of one Lac of Bags at the same Rate vizt. 4Rs. 12as pr. Bag, and foreseeing that the Walpole could not be loaded till late in the Season, if at any rate, we availed ourselves of Captain Churchill's Earnestness to be employed, and directed a further quantity of Rice equal to the Charter Party Tonnage, to be delivered from the Garrison Stores & sent by the Walpole to Fort St. George, which would cause a considerable saving of Freight to be set off against the unavoidable Demurrage which must necessarily be incurred by the detention of that Ship.

7. The same Reason which induced us, to employ the Walpole, operated in respect to the Queen; this Ship imported here on the 8th Instant from Bombay, and we immediately ordered Captain Douglass to make the necessary Arrangements for receiving on board 1500 Barrels of Gun Powder the quantity applied for by that Presidency, and as a further saving to the Company we had intended to authorize the President & Council there to dispatch the Queen with a Cargo of Cotton to China or to let her out to Freight to that place as Circumstances should hereafter occur.

8. Advices from China since received have confirmed us of the Propriety & Expediency of this measure with respect to the Queen,

Consn 19th Decr. & had induced us to Order a similar Destination for the Walpole, which we afterwards partly revoked, under the idea that this Ship will be of as much Service in making a second Trip to Madras and proceeding from thence to China, as in going almost empty to Bombay,

22nd do.

which would have been the Case our Supplies to that place being completed by the Consignments Pr. Foulis & Queen.

9. Captain Rattray of the Phoenix a few Days previous to his Departure from Calcutta addressed a Letter to us respecting the Short delivery & Deficiency of some of your Consignments by that Ship, & requested that the adjustment thereof might be referred to your Hon'ble Court, Tho' we conceive it would have been more regular for a business of this nature to be settled on the Spot we found it impossible from want of time; & have therefore directed the Board of Trade to furnish us with every Explanation that they are possessed of, which we shall forward to enable you to recover the amount.

10. We have frequently found it necessary to complain to you on the Subject of the numerous Desertions from your European Corps, & the Encouragement given thereto by the Commanders and Officers of your Ships. The orders from your Hon'ble Court on this Head, are clearly and accurately laid down,—tho' rarely if ever attended to and we are sorry our duty compels us to instance the conduct of Captain Gregorie who received several Deserters from the Fort and concealed them on board his Ship. Information having been given of this Transaction the Governor General sent down a Party to search her, and five men were in consequence brought back. We trust you will pass such censure upon Captain Gregorie as you may think his improper conduct deserves, and that it will be attended with the Good Effects of preventing a Repetition of an Evil so extremely prejudicial to your interests. It may not be improper to notify to you in this place that all the Commanders of your Ships are peremptorily forbid immediately upon their arrival to Ship a man that has not been previously examined by the Fort Major.

11. The following Gentlemen of your Civil Service have obtained our Permission to return to Europe upon leave of Absence.

Mr. Thomas Pottinger	} on the Pension
Mr. Joseph Mee	
&	
Mr. John Scott	

12. This latter Gentleman's case is particular. He was removed from his appointment of Secretary to the Committee of Revenue when the general alteration took place in consequence of your Orders by the Talbot, and from that period he has continued without Employ. His ill state of Health however, which is duly certified by the Surgeon who attended him, is the Motive which induces him to proceed to Europe, and we hope as soon as it is restored you will readily allow him to return to his duty on this Establishment.

13. Mr. Charles Taylor has obtained our Permission to make a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope for the recovery of his Health; & to go to Europe from thence if he finds it necessary.

14. Mr. Ritchie your Marine Surveyor<sup>1</sup> has also been allowed to return to Europe this Season. He wished to be considered as still in Possession of that appointment, &

5th Decr.

to be permitted to draw the whole or part of the allowances annexed thereto, which your Orders prohibit our granting. We however are fully sensible of his Merits, & of the Services he has done to the Company, and readily recommend him to you as deserving your consideration & future favor.

15. We think it necessary to apprise you that this Gentleman lately presented a Demand to us, for salary and other Charges while he was employed in surveying the Northern Provinces from the 31st October 1773 to the End of February 1776. This demand is accompanied by an affidavit certified by a Notary Public. The Letter which he wrote in Explanation is entered in our Proceedings noted in the Margin\*, but as it related to a Transaction so distant, & during the Administration of former Governments we did not think proper to pass it, but referred it generally to your Hon'ble Court, as the Persons best able to give any Information of the Circumstances; & to assign ample Reasons for admitting or rejecting the Claim are now in England.

16. We have granted Bills of Exchange to the Amount of Sa. Rs. 10,000 on account of the Orphan Society, to Mr. Henschman the Treasurer of the Fund, agreeably to the Permission contained in the 7th Paragraph [7th Sub-paragraph of paragraph 54] of your Letter of the 14th March 1786 and on the Terms specified therein.

17. We have also granted a Sett of Bills on you to Mr. R. Chapman on account the Estate of Mr. Joseph Brown to the Amount of £ 1500, Conformably to the Directions in your letter of the 5th July 1780.

18. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows :—

	CRs.	
Ready Money . . . . .	85,44,48	3 3
Balance account Deposits. . . . .	491,628	8 7
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	116,918	3 3
Balance of the Old Bonded Debt on which the interest has ceased by public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117	0 8
New Bonded debt at 8 P. Cent . . . . .	14,280,279	15 2
New Bonded debt Account Mily. Arrears . . . . .	2891,279	12 7
4 P. Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0 0
	178,45,223	8 0

We have the Honor to be & ca

Fort William  
the 28th December 1786.

Examined C. R.

[Endorsement] Pub. 1786 Deptt. Draft of General Letter per William Pitt Dated 28th Decr. End CR.

\*of the Previous Paragraph.

30—1 NAI/70

## LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1787

*Company's agreement with the General Bank of India—resignation of John Stables, Member of Board.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Director for Affairs of the Hon'ble Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Pub: Dept.      Para 1. Having on the 28th Ultimo had the honor of addressing you by the William Pitt we now enclose a Duplicate of our Letter and beg leave to inform you that the Invoices of that Ship's Cargo amounted as follows.

Account the Investment of 1783/4	CRS	5781	0	0
1784/5 . . . .		[2,06,230	0	0
1785/6 . . . .		10,11,800	0	0
	Ct. Rs.	12,23,811	0	0

And we have the pleasure to acquaint you that Captain Mitchell quitted his Pilot on the 2d. Instant.

Para : 2. The Talbot now proceeds to Fort St. George to be filled up with such part of the Madras Investment as may be ready on her arrival, and the Berrington will proceed thither to receive on board the remainder of the Madras Investment of this Season in the course of the present Month.

3. The Cargo of the Talbot from Bengal is composed of Goods of the Investment of

1784/5 Ct. Rs. 87, 500 & of 1786/7 . .	8,52,450	0	0
In all Ct. Rs. . .	9,39,950	0	0

4. We do not by this conveyance send you any part of our Proceedings in this Department the recent Dispatch of the William Pitt making it quite unnecessary.

5. We cannot however omit informing you that on the 3rd Instant the Governor General laid before the Board a letter from the Chairman of the General Bank of India accompanied by various propositions which he was empowered to make to this Government together with a printed Copy of the Articles of Agreement under which the Directors had engaged to conduct the management of this institution, Copies of these Papers were at the desire of the Governor General delivered to each Member of the Board, and the Subject laid over for consideration until the next meeting in this Department, which was adjourned for seven days when the Governor General and the other Members of the Board severally gave their Opinion concurring in an Acquiescence to these propositions, under such

Checks as we deemed necessary and with an additional article in which it is to be declared and must be understood that in case of disappointment it shall be at the Option of either party to withdraw from the proposed connexion upon giving a warning of eight days to the other.

6. You will herewith receive Copies of the several Papers adverted to in the foregoing Paragraph and we persuade ourselves that you will hereafter be informed that the Hon'ble Company have derived great advantage of the Investment of the ensuing Season having been procured through the Assistant [*sic*] which the Government and Individuals may derive from an Extension of the Credit of the Bank.

Para. 7. Mr. Stables has this day given in a Minute expressive of his intention to send up his resignation of his Seat in Council by the return of the Gentleman ordered to dispatch the Talbot.

8. It is not necessary for us to call to your Recollection the long & faithful Services of this Gentleman, as your records bear Testimony of his having conducted himself, as a Member of your Supreme Council, with the highest honor, Integrity, [*sic*] & Disinterestedness, and with great Zeal to promote the true Interests of the State, we cannot therefore but regret being deprived the Assistance of so valuable a Colleague.

9. The State of the Treasuries this day is as follows.

	Ct.	Rs.
Ready Money . . . . .	12,37,351	4 2
Balance account Deposits . . . . .	5,04,260	8 7
Balance Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	1,16,918	3 3
Balance of the Old Bonded Debt on which the Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . .	45,117	0 8
New Bond Debt @ 8 P. Cent . . . . .	1,42,60,729	15 2
New Bond Debt account Madras Military Arrears	28,81,564	0 6
New Bond Debt account Bombay Military Arrears	18,82,720	7 2
4 P. Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0 0
	1,97,10,860	3 4

We have the honor to be  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your most faithful  
Humble Servants.  
[Per Earl Talbot]

Fort William  
the 10th January 1787.  
Compd JS

## LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1787

*Proposal to set up General Bank of India accepted.*

**THE** Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies. & ca.

Hon'ble Sirs,

The Directors of the General Bank of India having, during the last few months, made several proposals to me for forming a connexion between Government & that Bank, on the basis of mutual convenience & advantage; after frequent discussions, a set of propositions were offered on the 23 of Decr. for the consideration of the Board, & my minute recommending the acceptance of them is recorded on the Consultations of yesterday. By the Checks & precaution we have adopted, I think it impossible that Government can suffer by this connexion, & we shall derive immediate & considerable advantages from it; Amongst others I confess that I put a great value upon the assistance of ready money, which we shall obtain for our Investment. I could not patiently submit to the loss of discount upon our paper, if it was possible to avoid it, and I am in great hopes, by an exertion of our own funds, to be able to command ready money enough to make the whole or the greatest part of the advances to the agents & Contractors.

To lay this transaction completely before you, I now inclose Copies of the propositions, of my minute, & of the Articles of Agreement of the subscribers to the Bank for your information.

I have the honor to be with great respect.

Hon'ble Sirs

Your most obedient & Most humble servant.

Cornwallis

Fort William  
January 11, 1787.

16

## LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1787

*Obstacles in China trade—legal difficulty re. office of Coroner of Calcutta—Gilchrist's Hindustani Dictionary published.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have the honor to address you by the Berrington and to transmit by this Ship, Duplicates of our letters by the William Pitt and Talbot, and our Broken Sett of Proceedings with Index, for the month of December.

2. We shall now proceed to detail the subjects which occurred during that Month.

3. The Berrington is furnished with a Cargo from hence amounting to Ct. Rs. 10,34,000—and will receive an addition of 400 Bales at Fort St. George to be finally dispatched to you from that Presidency.

4. In our letter of the 21st. August by the Severn we duly informed you of the Amount which we had determined to appropriate for the supplies of the other Presidencies, and to Canton during the Current Year Vizt. between the 1st. May 1786, and the 30th of April 1787.

5. Our remittances to the former from the various Channels which have been opened are effected with facility and at a reduced exchange, and are not only already completed, but exceed as will appear by the accompanying statement.

6. With respect to China, our Resolutions have hitherto been greatly circumscribed, and we are apprehensive that we shall not be able to remit to the Supercargoes there the Sum which we have resolved to appropriate to this service.

Para 7. Your orders and indeed the State of our finances precluded the Idea of furnishing specie. The only mode therefore that occurs to us thus situated, was to revert to the practice of former years, by advertizing for the receipt of proposals.

8. The publication to this effect and the offers made in consequence are recorded in the Consultations noted in the margin. Those which have been acceded to, only Amount to Current Rupees 6,73,000—the Remainder of the supply we shall endeavor to furnish on the same terms in the course of this season, but we understand tho' from private authority that there are obstructions experienced by the Merchants of this place, Trading to China, of so discouraging a nature, that we apprehend they will be compelled to relinquish this Commerce unless the influence thro' which those obstructions arise, be speedily removed.

8th. December  
19th. Ditto.

9. We observe by the latest advices from the Super cargoes, that there is every reason to believe they will be able to procure Cargoes for all your ships that have imported at Canton this season, and we have great satisfaction upon this occasion, of knowing that our supplies have afforded a great, and seasonable relief.

10. We cannot however close this subject, without acquainting you that we have been much embarrassed by a Draft upon us from the Supercargoes, for so large a sum as Current Rupees four Lacs and two thousand and at so short a sight as thirty days, under a positive agreement, grounded on orders from hence of two years date, that it should be discharged in preference to all other demands upon us, which has not only deranged our Treasury arrangements and Subjected us to great inconvenience, but the Company suffer considerable loss by it, the rate of Exchange at which the Bill is drawn being 39 new Dollars for 100 Ct. Rs. altho' the Supercargoes were fully apprized that all our remittances to them were at the rate of 41 P. 100 issued in Certificates, that bore a discount of at least 10 P. Cent.

11. We transmit a Number in this Packet Mr. Macpherson's Minute informing us that after he had recovered Consn. 17th Jany. from a late severe illness his Physicians had declared that it would be necessary for him to take a Sea Voyage of some length and to endeavour, at all events to avoid, the setting in, of the next hot Season in Bengal that he accordingly intended to proceed to Madras on the Berrington, and after consulting Dr. Anderson of that place to continue his Voyage as far as the Cape of Good Hope, or to go to Bombay.—The Minute at the same time, Stated the amount due to Mr. Macpherson when the plan for discharging the Company's Debt according to priority of date was first established as well as at this period, was [and!] the mode by which he intended to receive payment to this we beg leave to refer.

12. We could not but lament that we are to be deprived, for a time of Mr. Macpherson's assistance, and we are perfectly sensible of his delicacy in adopting a mode of exchanging his Certificates, which cannot possibly establish a precedent which may hereafter prove embarrassing to this Government.

13. We have permitted Mr. Donelly a Lieutenant in the Navy and 4th Officer of the Walpole to relinquish his station, and to proceed to Europe in the William Pitt, on his representing to us thro' 22d. December. Captain Churchill, that his leave of absence from the Admiralty [sic] would be expired before his return, if he were obliged to continue in that Ship, as the Change in her Original Voyage would detain him in the Country another year.

14. Your orders of the 11th April 1785 in favor of the Widow of the late Lieutenant Col: Tolley have been duly attended to, the new Lease of the Canal is drawn out, and will be executed, as soon as Mrs. Tolley has granted a Mortgage thereof to the Company as Collateral Security for their demand upon the Estate, which she has agreed to make good by Instalments.

15. Our Proceedings noted in the Margin contain every thing that 26th. April has passed on this Subject, and we hope they will 21st. September meet your approbation in the Conviction that a 27th. November regular Compliance with your Commands has been 5th. December observed, at the same time, that the necessary attention has been Shown to the obtainment of your legal claims upon the Estate.

16. At the Recommendation of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature, we have thought proper to allow the Coroner of the Town of Calcutta a Salary and Office Establishment of 300 Arcot Rupees P. Month the propriety of this small 10th January Encrease is too evident to require any Comment, but the Introduction of the subject before the Court, produced an Opinion from the Judges, which certainly deserves Consideration; they suggest an Idea that the Charter of Justice does not give Authority for the appointment of a Coroner in the legal Sense of the World—we transmit for your

information a separate Copy of their letter and as the necessity of such appointment in this extensive City is conspicuous we trust you will procure the Authority required.

17. We have permitted Mr. Robert Beeby to return to Europe upon leave of Absence for three years on the subsistence drawn by Servants of his standing, and we have allowed Mr. Eldred Addison to make a Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, and eventually to England, for the recovery of his health.

18. These Gentlemen embarked in the Talbot and as they have conducted themselves to our satisfaction, in the Offices which they respectively filled, we recommend them to be readmitted to your Service, as soon as the object of their return home is accomplished.

19. We transmit you in this Packet an Extract from a Hindostany Dictionary compiled by Mr. J. Gilchrist (an Assistant Surgeon upon this Establishment) and now published under his Inspection in Separate Numbers.

20. Mr. Gilchrist requested us to allow them to be forwarded to his Subscribers in the interior parts of the Country free of Postage which we accordingly granted, but as we are of opinion that the Work will be of infinite Utility to your Servants both Civil and Military & greatly facilitate the attainment of a Knowledge in the Eastern Languages which is so highly necessary to the proper management of your concerns, we promised to recommend it to your Notice and to that encouragement by subscription which it has been your invariable Custom to give to productions of Ability and Labour.

21. The State of the Treasuries this day is as follows.

	Ct. Rs.	
Ready Money . . . . .	462,843	14 1
Balance account Deposits . . . . .	5,04,260	8 7
Do. Accomptant General to the Mayor's Court	1,16,918	3 3
Do. of the old Bonded Debt on which the Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement .	45,117	0 8
New Bonded Debt at 8 P. Cent . . . . .	1,41,01,177	11 8
Do. Do. Do. account Madras Military Arrears	30,57,812	11 8
Do. Do. Do. account Bombay Arrears .	18,82,720,7,2	
4. P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0 0
	<hr/>	
	1,97,28,006	10 1

Fort William  
the 17th January 1787,  
Compd JS

We have the honor to be & ca

## LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 1787

*John Shore assumes charge as Member of Board in charge of Revenue Department.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para : 1. In our letter of the 10th Instant, we apprized you of Mr. Stables having informed us of his intention to resign his seat in the Supreme Council by the return of the Gentleman ordered to dispatch the Talbot, and having received his resignation on the 21st Instant we Summoned Mr. Shore to attend us in Council for the purpose of taking his seat at our Board According to the Nomination of your Hon'ble Court which he did, on the following Day when he was Sworn in, and at the same time requested to receive Charge of the Revenue Department.

22d January

2. As the Ganges will be dispatched direct to England in a few days, we shall by that Ship transmit a particular Account of the measures we are about to adopt for the provision of the Ensuing Years' Investment as well as a detail of our Proceedings in this Department for the Month of January.

We have the honor to be & ca.

Fort William

the 24th. January 1787.

Compd JS [Per Berrington]

## LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1787

*Shipping and investment details—indigo manufactured according to Boyce's new process examined—action against officers guilty of corruption in connection with silk investments—Maclary's case—Danish ship not permitted to change over to English colours without furnishing details of ownership—unlicensed persons coming to India—financial aid to Fort Marlbro'—measures for development and defence of newly acquired colony of Penang.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para : 1. Our last Dispatches from this Department were transmitted you by the Berrington, under date the 17th and 24th Ultimo, and we have the pleasure to inform you Captain Ley discharged his Pilot on the [.....].

Pub Dept.

2. The Ganges now under sailing orders will convey our present address with the Broken Set of Proceedings in this Department up to the first Instant the complete Annual set for 1786 with Indexes and a Cargo of your Consignments amounting as per inclosed Invoices to Current Rupees 12,50,411.

3. The Earl of Oxford Captain White will be dispatched in all next Month with an Investment of about 12,50,000 Rupees, and is the last Ship we shall send to Europe in the present Season.

4. The amount therefore of the Gargoes of this year is as follows vizt.

**Phoenix**

Account former Investments . . .	11,70,793	7	9	
Charges Merchandize . . .	23,206	8	3	11,94,000 0 0

**Manship**

Account former Investments . . .	10,99,774	6	3	
Ditto of 1786/87 . . .	89,925	4	3	
Charges Merchandize . . .	21,229	12	0	12,11,229 6 6
				[Sic]

**William Pitt**

Account former Investments . . .	2,03,857	10	0	
Ditto of 1786/87 . . .	10,22,163	3	0	
Charges Merchandize . . .	27,898	13	3	12,53,919 10 3
				[Sic]

**Talbot**

Account former Investments . . .	81,306	13	6	
Do. of 1786/87 . . .	8,25,832	11	4	
Charges Merchandize . . .	32,810	7	2	9,39,950 0 0

**Berrington**

Account former Investments . . .	37,890	0	0	
Do. of 1786/87 . . .	9,73,308	13	6	
Charges Merchandize . . .	22,801	2	6	10,34,000 0 0

**Ganges**

Account former Investments . . .	132,195	5	6	
Ditto of 1786/87 . . .	10,23,483	10	0	
Charges Merchandize . . .	34,732	0	6	12,50,411 0 0
				[Sic]

**Oxford**

Estimated at

Account former Investments . . .	100,000	0	0	
Ditto of 1786/87 . . .	11,20,000	0	0	
Charges Merchandize . . .	30,000	0	0	12,50,000 0 0

Current Rupees

In the above sum there is of the Former Years Investments	28,85,817	11	0
And of the Investments of 1786/87	50,54,713	10	1
On Account of Charges Merchandize	1,92,978	11	8
Total Current Rupees	81,33,510	0	9

5. There remains of the Investments of 1786/7 which we hope to receive in time to be sent home on the Ships of 1787/8 more than Ct Rs .....25,00,000.

And we have resolved to allot for the

Investment of the ensuing Season.....70,00,000.

Making together.....95,00,000.

But we must allow for possible deficiencies in the

timely deliveries of the Goods of 1787/8 about.....15,00,000.

Which will reduce the Amount of the Investment

to be sent you next Year to nearly.....Ct Rs.....80,00,000.

6. The modes to be adopted for the provision of this Investment the particular allotment of the various Articles to compose it, and the Amount of each are so fully detailed in the Governor General's Minute and our Resolution thereon recorded in the Consultation 22nd. January noted in the Margin, and transmitted numbers in 29th. Ditto this Packet that it is only necessary to refer you to them for your more particular information.

7. You have been apprized of the difficulties we laboured under by the encreased Quantity of Tonnage taken up by your Hon'ble Court for the Season of 1786/7 and of the measures we were compelled to adopt in consequence, Twelve Ships were originally destined for Bengal, and the Talbot sent here from Fort St. George in April as the President and Council thought it at that time too early to dispatch Captain Taylor to China.

8. To occupy the Tonnage sent her[e] with the customary Goods, and the established Quantity of Salt Petre (3000 Bags) would require at least Sixteen Lacks of Rupees for each Ship equal to Current Rupees 2,08,00,000 for the whole or £Stg. 2,080,000 a sum far beyond the means of this Government at any time, much less when loaded as it has been with the accumulated Debts, of the other Presidencies, as well as its own.

9. Of the above mentioned Ships we have been only able, aided by the Madras Bales to load seven and each of these are at least 150 Tons short of the Quantity for which they were taken up as stipulated in the Charter Party.

10. Those remaining except the Ravensworth viz. Foulis/Hilsborough/Walpole/Queen/and Lansdown are all to go to China this Season and the Gentlemen at Bombay only able to load the Rockingham, will send thither such other Ships as have been destined to that Presidency.

11. We think it our duty to be so particular and to apprise you of the measures we have adopted in order that you may regulate the Number of Ships to be taken up in 1787, and as it is evident from the foregoing Estimate that there will not be more than seven Cargoes in Bengal and at Madras, we apprehend we shall be under the necessity of having recourse to the expedient of last year by sending all the ships above seven including the Ravensworth to China.

12. We have the pleasure to inform your Hon'ble Court that the Intelligence Packet imported here from England on the 11th Instant, and the Tryal from China on the 23d. January.

13. Taking into consideration your Orders for the reduction of the Establishment of Packets, added to the very considerable expence which the Company incur by the vessels and the little necessity there is at present for continuing them while the Chartered Ships by being Coppered make equal if not more expeditious passages, we resolved to pay off the Crews of these Vessels immediately on their respective arrivals and turned them over to the Pilot Service for which they were originally built we at the same time Ordered, two of the worst Vessels on that Establishment to be sold out.

14. Captain Poynter addressed us, Setting forth the Situation of himself and Officers in being deprived of Employ in a Country where they had no prospect of providing for themselves and requested our Assistance, which we could not refuse considering his case as in fact it is a very hard one, we therefore agreed to allow him and his Officers Six Months Extra Pay, & at the Companys expence passages to Europe on the Ganges or Oxford we likewise extended the same indulgence to Captain Clifton and the Officers of the Intelligence in consideration of their being in the same predicament, We trust these measures which will ultimately produce a very considerable saving to the Company will meet your entire approbation.

15. We have in consequence of the alteration in the destination of the Walpole and Queen, and at the particular solicitation of Captains Churchill and Douglas permitted them and their Officers to send home Goods equal to their respective privileges in one of the Company's Ships of this Season in the same manner as we had granted like indulgence to Captains Blachford Hardcastle and Storey.

16. In the letter of the 7th. March 1786 Mr. Boyce was introduced to the notice of your Hon'ble Court on Account of his Discoveries, and consequent improvement in the Manufacture of Indigo, We have now to inform you, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor General having desired the Attendance of several Gentlemen at the Council House to examine its quality the 22d. of December was the day appointed for that purpose.

17. The Members of the Board of Trade with several of the Makers and Judges of Indigo, being accordingly Assembled Mr. Boyce informed them that the Quantity he had made, was about 4 Maunds in the following proportions of which he produced Musters.

Of No. 1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,848 Small bags
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	594
3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1925
							<hr/> 4367

The Musters [sic] No. 1 seemed most to engage the attention of the Gentlemen present, it is much superior to No. 2 while No. 2 was in a far greater degree superior to No. 3.

18. The Colour of this Indigo is equally pleasing to the Eye with that of Guatimala, or 1st. Flora and of the two weighs the least, It Burns while in a Current of Air, and discharges a beautiful Carmine

Coloured smoke, leaving a small remain of a Whitish Earth, the Guatimala Indigo also emits a Vapour, equally bright in colour, but when tried as Mr. Boyces, left a larger, and Darker residue behind after the Colouring part was consumed.

19. To remove any further doubts, which might be entertained regarding this Indigo, we resolved that the Experiment of dying cloth with it should be made, and with the concurrence of Mr. Boyce, requested Mr. Herbert Harris and John Fergusson to Superintend the Process.

20. Their Reports recorded in the Consultation of 17th January 1787 we have the honour transcribe as follows.

Mr. Boyce declares that this Indigo is Superior to any from Gauthimala"

We are of opinion that his Indigo is exceedingly fine and equal to the 1st sort of Gauthimala."

"That it contains double the quantity of Dye in an equal weight of any Indigo Company have never been supplied with from this country

"We estimate his Indigo to contain one third more colouring matter, in equal weight but from the extreme lightness of it (a good quality) we imagine it to be near double in Bulk."

"Possesses a beauty in the Colour which must be destroyed in the Old Method of manufacture"

"We can with great truth say that very Good Indigoes can be made by the present mode of manufacture equal to those of any other Country (Gauthimala excepted) and we have seen Specimens made by different persons nearly equal to that but

the process is so expensive that no one has found his account in making a quantity, and we find on enquiry that the first sort of Guatimala Indigo is only used for high Colours and Silk, and that the proportion it bears to the whole Quantity imported Yearly into Great Britain is not one eighteenth part."

21. Having taken these Reports and the whole of this Business into our Consideration, we Resolved to suspend our decision upon the Subject, until we are favored with your Commands in Answer to our Letter of the 7th March 1786 in the meantime Mr. Boyce's new Musters attend you in this Packet.

22. We have permitted Mr. William Rooke to Return to Europe for three years, upon leave of absence and at the Recommendation of the Governor General founded on the distinguished Abilities and approved Integrity of Mr. Charles Grant, late Commercial Resident at Malda appointed him to the Station vacated by Mr. Rooke in the Board of Trade, Mr. Udney Assistant to Mr. Grant, has succeeded to the Residency of Malda and we have Nominated Mr. Harry Verelst Darell, to be his Assistant.

23. We have permitted Mr. Henry Griffiths of your Civil Service  
17th. January to proceed to Europe on leave of Absence for three  
Years.

24. We beg leave to recommend to your favorable Consideration,  
the present inadequate Allowances, of the Chaplains on this Estab-  
lishment since the reduction of their Salaries in consequence of  
your Orders of 11th. April 1785. An address from these Gentlemen  
to your Hon'ble Court, was forwarded by the Rodney last year, but  
from the Multiplicity of more important Business, we imagine it  
has escaped your observation. This Address is recorded in the Con-  
sultation Noted in the Margin, and amply sets forth  
14th. February 87 their distressed Situation which the Testimony of  
many respectable Inhabitants of Calcutta fully  
proves, we hope therefore you will authorize us to grant them some  
relief.

25. On the 17th Ultimo the Right Hon'ble the Governor General  
moved that the 145th. Paragraph of the General  
Consn. 17th. Jan'y. Letter from your Hon'ble Court of the 12th. April  
1786 should be read which being done his Lordship  
laid before us an Extract of the Letter from your Secret Committee  
also of that Date and at the same time entered a Minute upon the  
Subject declaring that as the matter contained in the above men-  
tioned Paper Charged some of the Company's Servants of long stand-  
ing and at present in high and responsible Stations with being con-  
cerned in Corruption, & might tend to affect very Materially their  
Characters and fortunes he had in carrying the Commands of your  
Secret Committee into execution, less consulted his private feelings  
than a Sense of Duty in his public Station.

26. The Governor General desirous of saving as much as possi-  
ble the Members of this Board the pain that must arise from taking  
a share in directing the execution of orders which must operate  
against Gentlemen with whom they have had a long acquaintance  
instructed previous to bringing the matter before the Board the  
Advocate General to prepare and file Bills in Equity in the Supreme  
Court of Judicature according to your Commands, conceiving that  
your Orders were of so explicit a Nature as not to admit of Consul-  
tation, and only left room for Obedience.

27. Earl Cornwallis soon after his arrival called for certain  
Official Lists and Papers from the Board of Trade, which from many  
causes could not be prepared till lately these having been very  
carefully examined it appears that your orders particularly apply  
to the following Gentlemen, either as Members of the Board of Trade  
or Contractors during the period in which the Conduct of the Com-  
mercial Servants in the Raw Silk branch of the Investment, is  
Stated by the Secret Committee, as having been highly reprehensible,  
or as having been concerned in the Purchases of the ready made  
Goods sent home in the Earl of Oxford in the Year 1784. They are  
as follows vizt.—

Mr. Jacob Rider was appointed 2d. in Council at Cossimbuzar on  
the 19th. April 1773 In the Month of February 1775 he delivered to the  
Commercial Chief of Cossimbuzar a Contract executed by himself  
to the Company for the delivery of 1000 Maunds of Filature Silk at

14 Sa. Rs. p Seer and 500 Maunds of Bengal Wound Silk at 10 Sa. Rs. per Seer between the 31<sup>st</sup>. October 1774 and the 31<sup>st</sup>. Day of March 1777. This Quantity of Silk he or his Agent delivered and were paid for according to the rates aforesaid, he became a Member of the Board of Trade on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1780.

Mr. Thomas Henchman was appointed Resident at Malda on the 14<sup>th</sup>. January 1771 and on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1775 contracted with the Board of Trade to deliver to the Company all the Filature Raw Silk which we should be able to make in three Years from the 1<sup>st</sup>. of that Month at the price of Sa. of Rs. 13-8 P Seer and accordingly delivered a very large quantity at that price on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Day of April 1778 he again Contracted with the Board of Trade for delivering to the Company 600 Mds. of Filature Silk Annually for three Years at the rate of 12 Sa. Rs. per Seer and accordingly delivered a very large quantity of Silk at that price.

Of the several persons who were Members of the Board of Trade and acting at the Presidency during the period of Messrs. Rider's and Henchman's Contracts, only two remain now in this Country. Mr. Grueber tho' a Member originally of the Board of Trade having been immediately after the third Council held by that Board sent to the Factory at Dacca, where he continued to reside without ever again sitting at the Board until he was dismissed in the Month of May 1776, the two who sat at the Board during that period.

Mr. William Barton who became a Member on the 19<sup>th</sup>. June 1776 and has continued so until the present time and

Mr Nathaniel Bateman who became a Member on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1775 and was dismissed on the 24<sup>th</sup>. July 1778.

Mr. Jams. English Keighly was appointed Commercial Resident at Bauleah on the 6<sup>th</sup>. November 1778. In the Year 1779/80 he provided Silk for the Company at their own Filature and by advances of the Company's Money and delivered 1403 Maunds and 14 Seer for which he charged the Company Ct. Rs. 7,24,071-4-3 being at the Rate of 12-14-5 P. Seer. In the Year 1780/81 he in the same manner provided 750 Maunds and 25 Seer of Filature Silk for which he charged Current Rupees 3,72,888-9-6 being at the rate of Ct. Rs. 12-6-5 per Seer for the year 1781/82 and the four following Years he Contracted with the Board of Trade to deliver Annually 674 Maunds and 6 Seers of Filature Silk at Sonat Rupees 11-2 P Seer and 366 Maunds and 38 Seer of Bengal wound Raw Silk at Sonat Rupees 10-4 P Seer which Quantity he accordingly delivered for the Year 1781/82-But the Governor and Council taking the Management of the Investment into their hands in the Year 1782 Annulled the Contract at the Expiration of the first Year and put the Beluah Contract with others up to public Bidding when Mr. Keighly became a Contractor at the reduced prices, and agreed to deliver in the ensuing Year 1033 Maunds of Filature Silk at the price of 8-12 per Seer and of 200 Maunds of Bengal wound Silk at the price of 7-12 P Seer—which quantity he actually did deliver accordingly. It was a part of this Silk which went home on the Bellmont in the beginning of the Year 1784, and which yielded to the Company about one Shilling and a penny the Current Rupee.

The only person[s] now in Bengal who were Members of the Board of Trade during the periods in which Mr. Keighly provided the above Quantities of Silk are Messrs. Barton & Rider and

Mr. John Sumner who was admitted a Member of that Board on the 5th December 1782 and continued to sit there until the beginning of the Year 1784 when he was appointed to Succeed Mr. Stephenson as Commercial Chief of Patna. It appears by the Books of the Export Ware House Kept of the Prizings of the ready made Goods purchased in the beginning of the Year 1784 that the only Gentleman present at those prizings were Mr. Barton as Comptroller of the Export Ware house.

Mr. Jacob Blaquiere with the Superintendant of the Cloth Investment and Mr. David Killican since deceased the Sub Export Ware house Keeper.

28. The Bills in Equity above specified, which are to be carried on in the name of the Company will be brought forward as soon as possible, and as it appears that many Natives have held Silk Contracts on the same or nearly the same extravagant terms as those complained of, and as it may be Necessary to Compel a discovery from the persons who sold the ready made Goods above mentioned, future directions will be given to Mr. Davis the Advocate General to join such persons in other Bills as we may upon further enquiry think it necessary to proceed against and he has been requested to exert himself to bring this Business to a decision with as much dispatch as the forms of Court and other circumstances will admit.

29. The Governor General deeming it incumbent on him in compliance with the recommendation of your Secret Committee moved that from the days on which the respective Bills are filed and pending against Messrs. Barton/Rider/Bateman/Henchman/Sumner/ Keighly and Blacquiere they be severally suspended from their Offices and Duties in the Company's Service which was accordingly agreed to, and our Secretary Ordered to Notify those Resolutions immediately to all the Gentlemen concerned and to furnish them with Copies of the Extract of the Letter from your Secret Committee and of the Governor General's Minute upon which those Resolutions have been formed.

30. Before the Governor General brought his Minute to the Board he caused it to be communicated to Messrs. Barton, Bateman, Rider and Henchman upon which they (except Mr. Bateman) addressed a Letter to his Lordship, appealing to his "sense of Justice against a literal execution of that part of the Letter from the Secret Committee which appears to contain a Recommendation to suspend them from their Offices and Duties in the Company's Service pending the Suits ordered to be instituted against them."

31. His Lordship's Answer to this application informed them that it was painful to him to execute the orders of the Secret Committee, but as he undertook this Government with a full

Determination to suffer no private considerations to interfere with the discharge of what he conceived to be his public Duty, he held himself equally Bound to Comply with your Recommendation to suspend them, he further said, he could not conceal from them that even without such recommendation he would not have thought it Justifiable in this Government to have left Company's Servants in the exercise of Offices of great trust and Responsibility while charges of so serious a nature, and so formally brought against them were under discussion before a Court of Judicature.

32. The Separate Letters on the same Subject and going to the same point, are also recorded on our Proceedings, from Mr. Thomas Henschman, to these we beg particularly to refer, and to a subsequent address from that Gentleman requesting for the reasons set forth in it, that we would if possible admit the intended suit to be tried in England; having laid this Application before the Advocate General and received his opinion thereon, both of which are sent Numbers in this Packet, we ordered Mr. Henschman to be informed that the first part of that request contained in his Letter of the 12th February could not be complied with, as the Company cannot prosecute the Suit against him in England without incurring much greater delay, difficulty, and Expence than they will be exposed to in prosecuting it here, where the Subject matter [of] the Bill arose, but that if he shall put in a full answer to the Bill on its being filed and give satisfactory Security for abiding the Event of the Decree he will then be permitted to return to England.

33. Mr. Maclary whom by the 9th. and 10th. Paragraphs of your General Letter of the 12th April 1786 we are directed to Seize, and send to England in consequence of his Transactions in the China Seas in the Year 1781 had retired on account of his Debts to a foreign Settlement Previous to the arrival of the Swallow.

34. This Gentleman understanding from private Intimation that these orders respecting him had been received, addressed a Letter to us from Chandernagore setting forth the motives which induced him to leave this Settlement, and his readiness to Surrender himself to our Power, at the same time, he requested to be furnished with a Copy of the orders regarding him, but as those matters were connected with Mr Maclary's situation at this period we deferred coming to any decision upon his application.

35. A Second letter accompanying a narrative explaining and justifying his Transactions at Macao was afterwards forwarded to us by Mr. Maclary, These are recorded in our proceedings noted in the margin we are induced by his voluntary obedience to your Commands when situated without the reach of our Authority to comply with his request to be furnished with a copy of our orders; He has since embarked for Europe in a foreign Ship.

36. We can only remark upon this Subject that if Mr. Maclary had been allowed to surrender himself to us he must have been

considered entirely under our protection, from Claims of a private nature, for which the Company would Ultimately have become responsible, or the Intention of your orders, must have been relinquished by our giving him up to his Creditor whereas the Mode which we have adopted in a great measure produces your object, without Risque or Responsibility of any kind.

37. Soon after our proceeding relative to the Snow Minerva of which a compleat Diary has been transmitted to you from the Revenue Department, we received a letter from Mr. Robert Donald stating "that the Ship named the Hornby came into this Port under Danish Colours, and with a Danish Cargo, that the Duties and Port Charges had been regularly discharged, and that the Ship had since become the sole property of British Subjects who were desirous of Navigating her in India under British Colours but as changing the Flag without first obtaining permission might be deemed improper, he requested on behalf of the Owners that we would grant the necessary Passport for the Ship as above named Robert Davidson Commander."

38. In consequence of this application the Right Hon'ble the Governor General ordered Mr. Donald to be informed that a Pass could not be granted unless he would declare upon Oath, the Names of the Persons to whom the Juliana Maria (now Hornby) belonged when she came into this Port, also the Names of her present Owners, upon this Mr. Donald addressed a second Letter Stating "that he had it not in his power to comply with the former part of the requisition and as to the latter part he could make Affidavit they were British Subjects.

39. It may not be improper, or too Minute to acquaint you that Captain Davidson Commanded and brought the Ship in question from Denmark under Danish Colours, altho' Mr. Donald a short time after his arrival here applied for a pass for her with the same Commander under English Colours—That Captain Davidson formerly sailed under the protection of the English in Country Ships belonging to British Subjects and that Mr. Donald was an inhabitant of Calcutta and acted for a considerable time in the Capacity of Auctioneer till he became Super Cargo of the Vessel in question.

40. In reply to Mr. Donald's last Letter we ordered him to be acquainted that unless he conformed to the first requisition, the Ship must leave the River under the same Colours with which she came in, this we believe was complied with and we understand the Ship went to Madras deliver'd a Cargo of Rice there, and is now laying at Kedgerie taking in another, as similar Circumstances of this Nature may occur we request to be favored with complete orders thereon, for our future guidance.

41. Your Commands are so peremptory and have been so often published respecting persons coming to India without your license that we feel it our duty to acquaint you that we find a great number of that description all over the Country we believe they come out in Ships under foreign Colours, as in the instance of Donald, and Davidson; also over land by Bussorah, and we are sorry to say,

that we apprehend the Commanders of your Ships rate many Gentlemen in their Books as Midshipmen, or Seamen with an intention to permit them to run in this Country, this also happens at Canton, from whence they procure passages on Country Ships to different parts of India, and is become so great an evil, that it requires instant remedy.

42. Mr. E. Hardwicke a Gentleman born in India and settled in one of the 24 Purgunnahs having sent his Son to Europe by the Talbot for Education Requested us to mention the Circumstance, to your Hon'ble Court, that after the purpose for which his Son is sent is effected, he may be permitted to return to his Parents.

43. In our letter of the 17th Ultimo we expressed our concern at the Supercargoes at China having granted a bill upon us for Ct. Rs. 4,02000 at a very high Exchange, and with a preference of payment this subjected us to great inconvenience, and we are sorry to inform you, that they have repeated this Measure by granting a second Bill upon us for

Current Rupees.....2,66,000-0-0  
on the same terms.

The Amount of these Bills is.....4,02,000-0-0

That of Certificates issued here payable in China on the 31st  
December 87 ..... 6,73,000-0-0.

13,35,000-0-0

And our Allotment for the Supply of China, in the Season of  
1786/7 is..... 5,00000-0-0

So there remains a Balance of only ..... 1,65,000-0-0.  
to complete the promised Supply for 1786/7.

44. You will receive by the Winterton our Separate Proceedings regarding Fort Marlbro' which contained the Measures adopted here for that Settlement in pursuance to your Commands of the 21st. March 1785 and you were then requested to give specific Orders, upon several points in which we deemed your decision necessary.

45. Since that period we have not received any advices from Bencoolen communicating the Resolutions of this Board having been carried into execution, but the Gentlemen there have taken the precipitate Step of discharging a part of their Paper debt by drawing Bills upon this Government without our previous Authority to be discharged in preference, to the claims of the Company's Creditors here, whom they must have Known we were bound in justice to pay according to our Treasury Arrangements.

46. In a late letter from the Deputy Governor and Council they request our permission to draw Bills of Exchange upon the Presidencies of Fort st. George and Bombay, but we did not think it expedient to comply with this Request, deeming it the evident intention of your Hon'ble Court as they were placed under the immediate Controul of this Government that they were alone to look for Supplies from hence, were it otherwise a very heavy Expence would be incurred as the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, unable to

provide for the exigencies of their own establishment must be Reimbursed from hence for any Sums drawn from their Treasuries and that too at a considerable Loss, while Remittances may be effected to Fort Marlborough at par : if not to advantage.

47. However to put the Company's Creditors at Fort Marlborough upon an equal footing with those at Fort St. George and Bombay and to afford every possible relief to that Residency, we have authorized the Deputy Governor and Council to grant Bills upon us for the Amount of their Paper Debt to be discharged by Company's Bonds bearing the established Interest of Eight P. Cent P. Annum by which means the Company's Debt at Fort Marlborough will be transferred to Bengal and that Residency relieved from the Charge of Interest, we have also accepted the Bills they have already drawn but made them payable in conformity to our Regulations that is according to their date and Number in our General Register part of the Stores indented for have been sent and we shall forward the Remainder by future conveyances.

48. We have advanced Mr. Pierse of the Civil Service on that Establishment Sa. Rs. 10,000 payable in Dollars at that place, and have Accepted Bills to an Amount which Added to the above supplies far exceeds our Allotment of Funds for the Support of that Residency in the Season of 1786/87.

49. In the Letter of the 25th March last the late Government communicated to your Hon'ble Court the measures they proposed to adopt in regard to forming a Settlement upon the Island of Penang in the Straights of Malacca, and on the 21st of August you were acquainted that Captain Light had sailed with a Detachment on that service.

50. On the 13th November following we acquainted you that we had received advices from Capital Light and should at a future period communicate the measures which we might adopt in consequence of those Advices in compliance therefore with that promise, we now transmit you our Separate Consultations of 13th December 1786 and 22d. January 1787 regarding Penang since called Prince of Wales Island to which we beg leave to refer your Hon'ble Court for Minute particulars while we communicate to you the principal measures we have adopted.

51. Captain Light having proceeded to Penang took possession of it in the name of his Majesty and for the use of the English East India Company on the 11th August 1786 and immediately commenced clearing the Country and the construction of a small Fort for the protection of the Detachment against any attempts of the Malay Powers whom he apprehended would be instigated by the Dutch or induced by the fickleness of their own disposition to attempt to cut them off.

52. Having taken into consideration the application from Captain Light to be reinforced and fully considered the advantages, which may result from this Settlement in opposition to the expence that must attend the encrease of the Establishment, the very favorable accounts of the Island received from Captain Light as well as from

those Gentlemen who had been at the place we were induced to comply with his request, and Accordingly Resolved to afford him effectual support, though not quite to the extent he desired.

53. The force of the Detachment and the quantity of the Military and Ordnance Stores sent with it, will be particularly specified from the Military Department also a part of the Stores and 20,000 Spanish Dollars in Specie have been embarked on the Ravensworth, and Captain Roddam discharged his Pilot on the 2d. Instant.

54. Captain Roddam has been directed after landing the Troops to proceed to Fort Marlbro' where he will receive on Board 150 Coffries for Prince of Wales Island, to be delivered to Captain Light for the purpose of clearing the Country and having performed the Service he is to return back to this place from whence we propose to dispatch him for England early in August, this will afford you an early Cargo and save the Expenditure of taking up a Packet at that Season.

55. We must confess it was with great reluctance we adopted measures which caused the Company an immediate increase of Expenditure on a prospect of distant Reimbursement, at a time when every fund is appropriated to answer a variety of demands, but the Plan has gone too far to be hastily [hastily] Retracted and the Usurpations of the Dutch in those parts, added to the great increase of the Company's Trade to China rendered a Settlement in the Straits of Malacca more requisite than ever.

56. The object[s] which we expect by this Settlement are both Commercial and Political, to connect the Bengal and China Trade, and procure a Windward Port during the North East Monsoon for the Refreshment and Repair of the King's Ships in time of War. How far we may be justified in these expectations time and experience can alone determine.

57. We do not look upon the Eastern Trade as a Source from whence much Specie can be drawn into this Country, but the advantages to be expected from it, for the Company are principally by its becoming more extensively than at present a Mart for the barter of Opium and the productions of Bengal for Tin Pepper and other Commodities to be applied as funds in the Chinese Markets for the purchase of Tea, instead of the Ruinous export of Specie from this Country as well as from Europe.

58. Captain Light having detailed the political Situation of the Native powers around him requested our orders in consequence of repeated Applications for Assistance from the King of Quedah, and other Princes who dreaded an Attack from the Siamese Forces to this we peremptorily direct[ed] him to refuse compliance with the solicitations of either party, but at the same time, instructed him to endeavour to Cultivate the good will of all, declaring that the defence of the Island must be his sole object we however informed Captain Light that the King of Quedah was entitled to some pecuniary Consideration for his Grant of the Island which we Authorized him to pay by Instalments.

59. Not concurring in the propriety of granting Passages to the Malay Powers [proa, prahu] Which Captain Light Recommended in order to obtain greater Commercial benefit by affording our protection against the exactions of the Dutch we forbid it, for altho' we do not admit many of the exclusive privileges claimed by that Nation, in the Eastern Seas, yet in case of their being arrogated before we authorized the English Colours to be hoisted, we considered it necessary to guard against their being insulted, we have however permitted Captain Light to grant passes to such Vessels as belong to Persons actually Inhabitants of the Island, who shall have taken the Oaths of Alligience [sic] according to the Tenets of their Religion.

60. We have ordered Mr. Macdonald an Officer upon this Establishment but on Service at Fort Marlbro' to proceed to Prince of Wales Island, and Survey the Harbour from his Report we may be better enabled to Judge how far this place will answer for the Reception and Repair of Ships of War, and whether it will serve as a place of defence.

61. We have likewise directed Captain Light to transmit us particular Accounts of the Exports and Imports of Goods with the prices they bear, and such further Information as may enable us to ascertain how far the Settlement will Answer our Expectations in a Commercial point of view.

62. Having this information before us, we shall be enabled to come to a final determination whether it will be prudent to continue or withdraw the Settlement altogether.

63. We have authorized Captain Light to receive such Colonists as he may judge expedient, to allot such a portion of Land to each family as circumstances would admit, and as an encouragement to trade, we have made the Port free to all Nations and Peremptorily forbid his levying any kind of Duty or Tax on Goods exported or imported.

64. The President & Council of Bombay have been requested to send an Armed Vessel of 14 Guns and two Armed Galliots for the defence of the Island and the Coast of Sumatra, to be relieved Annually in the Month of May, we preferred this measure to that of establishing a Marine at this place, as at Bombay it is done for half the expence the Vessels are much better and the Officers and Men accustomed to discipline [sic] besides this distant Service if regularly relieved will be of some benefit to your Marine.

65. The Worcester having lost her Passage to China is lying at Malacca our Superintendant wrote a Letter to Captain Hall requesting he would bring his ship to Prince of Wales Island where he would not only find every kind of Refreshment but serve as a Security to the new Settlement this however had not effect—Captain Hall not thinking it proper to comply with the Application, and preferring a foreign Port to one belonging to the Company, at which he might have rendered essential Service to his Employers.

66. We cannot conclude this subject without informing you that from the General good Character we have received of Captain Light

we believe him to be a person peculiarly well qualified to accomplish the objects of the Expedition committed to his Charge, as well from his knowledge of the language, Customs and habits of the Malays as from the calmness of his disposition and moderation of Temper, and having reduced the Vessel in the Command of which he went out we have granted him an allowance of 1000 Rupees per Mensen.

67. We have the pleasure to inform you the rate of Discount on Certificates has of late been very much reduced the corrected Amount of Orders & ca. due by the Company against the Treasury exclusive of those on account of the Military was on the 31st. January 1786.

Arrears due to the Army..Ct. Rs.....	112,40,624-8-5.
	<u>42,95,842-0-0.</u>
	155,36,466-8-5.

And at the time the discount in Certificate was 17 P. Cent

Upon Bonds . . . . . 27½ P Cent

The Certificates debt on the 31st January 1787 was	173,88,091-5-1.
--	-----------------

Arrears to the Army on the 31st January 87 and on the 31st newly the same	13,79,644-0-0
	<u>187,67,735-5-1.</u>

On the 31st January the discount on Certificates was 9 P. Cent.

On Bonds . . . . . 20 P Cent

It is this day on the newest Paper . . . . .	6½
and on Bonds	7½

68. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows.—

Ready Money . . . . .	9,93,208-6-2.
General Bank Notes . . . . .	Ss. Rs. 1,22,400-0-0.
	<u>1,41,984-0-0</u>
	Current Rupees
	<u>11,35,192-6-2</u>
Balance Account Deposits . . . . .	5,03757-9-4
Do. Accountant General to the Mayors Court . . . . .	1,16,918-3-3
Do. of the Old Bonded Debt on which Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement	45,117-0-8
New Bonded Debt at 8 P Cent . . . . .	140,54977-11-8
Do. Do. Do. on account Madras Military Arrears . . . . .	280,5979-7-4
Do. Do. Do. Bombay Do. . . . .	234.0903-2-9
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	<u>20000-0-0</u>

198,87,653-3-0

We have the honor to be & ca.

Fort William

the 19th February 1787.

Postscript. 20th. February 1787.

We beg leave to inform you that we have this moment received a Letter from the Hon'ble Company's Attorney informing us that the Bill of discovery against Messrs. Barton Bateman & Rider is filed, and that Subpoena's will be issued to them this day copies of these Bills according to the desire of your Secret Committee will be transmitted by the Earl of Oxford.

Compd JS

[Per Ganges]

19

## LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1787

*Utility of the Diamond Harbour—Barlow sent to Oudh to inquire into possibilities of cloth trade there—proposals to permit trade by commercial servants.*

**T**O the Hon'ble Court of Directors.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We have now the honor to address you by the Earl of Oxford, and by this conveyance, transmit our broken Set of Proceedings in the Pub. Dept. for the Month of February, with Index, and the usual Subsidiary Papers. The Invoice of the Cargo amounts to CRs. 12,65,400-0-0.

2. Having for the reasons set forth in our Letter under Date the 19th February per Ganges, turned over to the Pilot Service, the Intelligence, and Trial Packets; Captains Poynting and Clifton now proceed to England Passengers in the Oxford; we have at the recommendation of the Marine Pay Master issued to these Gentlemen on account, the Sums necessary to enable them to settle with such of their Officers, and People who may remain in the Country, referring the final Adjustment of their Accounts to your Hon'ble Court, and for this purpose we enclose their receipts.

3. The respective Surgeons of these Vessels having set forth the hardship of their Situation in being paid off in this distant Country, and having solicited to be employed in India, we have recommended them to the President and Council of Fort St. George to be appointed on that establishment having received an application from thence, for as many Surgeons Mates as we could spare from Bengal.

4. The Ganges got clear out on the 26th Ultimo. It seems by the enclosed Letters that One hundred and forty Seven Boxes and Bales of private Trade, ordered on board that Ship, have been returned as there was not room for them; altho' by the Calculation of the Officers of the Commercial Department, there is nearly 150 Tons short of the Quantity specified in the Charter Party, Captain Garnault says there is some mistake in the calculation of the Tonnage on Board his Ship, if that is really the case, and he can prove he could not take in the Bales in question, he is justified in returning them, if on the contrary, it should appear that he has not received

on Board his compleat Tonnage, we think he should be compelled to pay the freight incurred by sending the above mentioned bales and Boxes on the Oxford as well to save the Company from this loss, as to prevent by such Example, the like in future.

5. Captain Douglas having addressed a Letter to us on the subject of his Sufferings by the change in the destination of the Queen. It is only just to bring the particular situation of this Gentleman to your notice by informing you of his ready compliance with our orders, which tho' necessary, must in their operation, materially prejudice his private Interest, and certainly entitle him to your future consideration.

6. The Marine Pay Master and Master Attendant, having addressed us on the Subject of the mooring Chains at Diamond Point, and those they recommend to be laid at Cox's Island, we enclose a Copy of their Letter a Number in the Packet to which we request your particular attention.

7. The Advantages of the Station of Diamond Point, are fully stated by Captains Price and Thornhill, and their Idea of the benefits to be derived by it, is amply Corroborated by the Testimony of the Commanders of all the Company's Chartered Ships of the Season.— In two respects these advantages seem self evident, Vizt. that of all the Ships, Ten in number having been there, in a Season rather more sickly than usual, without losing on the whole, so many men as was very often the case in one ship at Kedgerree & the letter from the Chief Mate of the Foulis, proves the benefit, the Owners derive by these moorings. We therefore request your Hon'ble Court will take this Subject into consideration, and if you approve the plans suggested by your Marine Officers that the necessary orders may be issued at an early period for the articles they recommend to be sent out, We must at the same time request that the Owners may be apprized that for the use of these moorings, and half a Banksaul, we shall charge 800 Sicca Rupees per mensem for each Ship, either to be paid here, or to be set off against the freight that will be due on her arrival in England.

8. In consequence of our Publication for proposals for part of the cloth Investment several were delivered in, and we received at the same time, many Tenders, at a very reduced rate, for the provision of Indigo.—The offers for the cloth Investment have been referred to your Board of Trade, for their report, those for Indigo, to Messrs Herbert Harris and Lyon Prager, and we hope that the whole of the Investment for the ensuing Season will be laid in at a cheaper rate than any you have received of late Years.

9. Some alterations having taken place since our last letter to you, in the allotment of the Silk Investment, We beg  
23d Feby. leave to refer you to our Proceedings thereon and trust they will meet your approbation.

10. In our arrangements for the Provision of the new Investment your Orders contained in the 142d., 143d. & 144 Paragraphs of your General Letter of the 12th April, which particularly relate to Owde cloths, became a Subject of due consideration.

11. Previous however to advertizing for the receipt of Proposals on account this Supply, we thought it necessary to make some Enquiry into the nature of the Trade in that Province, and the General state of the Manufactures.

12. To this End the Governor General proposed the Deputation of Mr. Barlow, one of your Civil Servants, to the spot, and submitted, to our Consideration, Instructions, which his Lordship had prepared on the Occasion, these are recorded in the Proceedings noted in the Margin and as they contain a complete account of the object and Extent of this Deputation, we beg  
 23d Feby. Leave to recommend them to your Notice.

13. The Letters, which we requested the Governor General to write on this subjet to the Resident, at Lucknow, and the Nabob Vizier, will fully satisfy his Highness (should he entertain any Suspicion of our ultimate views) that, the Provision of your Investment, upon the fairest Terms both to the Company and manufacturer, and the consequent Improvement of his Country by advancing, and encreasing the Trade at present circumscribed, are the Points to which our attention is drawn, and which ought to be equally interesting to himself. We shall hereafter advise you of the result of Mr. Barlows Deputation.

14. Mr. Prager the Gentleman whom you appointed purchaser and Inspector of Drugs has been informed that we  
 14th. Feby. shall appropriate One lac of Current Rupees to this Service, whenever that amount can be invested with certain advantage, to the Company. We at the same time informed him this Sum might be encreased to two Lacs, but excepted Indigo.

15. This Gentleman having solicited us to take off the restriction under which he is bound not to Trade we complied with his request not seeing any inconvenience that could arise to your concerns by such a measure, and being of the same opinion with respect to all your Commercial Servants, we have it in contemplation to take off the restraint they are now under not to Trade.

16. Having in the Postscript of our Letter of the 19th Ultimo by the Ganges informed you that the Bill against Messrs Barton, Bateman and Rider at the suit of the Hon'ble Company, had been filed in the Supreme Court. It only remains to acquaint you that at the next [last] meeting of the Board the Governor  
 21st. Feby. General proposed that the Resolution of the 17th January should be carried into execution, which being agreed to, Messrs William Barton Nathaniel Bateman, and Jacob Rider were in consequence suspended, from their several Offices and employments in the Company's Service, from the day on which the Bill was filed. A Copy of the Bill attends you in the Packet.

17. At the recommendation of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General We have in consequence of the Vacancies occasioned by the above suspensions appointed Mr. Richard Kennaway to a temporary Seat in the Board of Trade and Mr. Edward Fletcher, to act as Secretary to that Board.

18. We beg leave to call your attention to a letter from Mr. Boyce which goes a number in the Packet, containing his Remarks on the observations delivered in on his Indigo by Messrs Harris and Fergusson, Mr. Boyce forwards another Muster of Indigo in the Oxford Packet.

19. A letter from the Board of Trade recorded in the Consultation noted in the margin encloses an address from Mr.

28th. Feby. Charles Grant setting forth, that it would be incongruous, to the nature of the Station to which he has been appointed, to continue a Contractor with the Company, and requesting permission to transfer the remaining part of the Contract he held for the provision of Malda Cloths to Mr. George Udny, his successor there to which, we readily acquiesce.

20. We also beg leave to refer to another address from the same Gentleman explaining the cause of the debased quality of the Malda cloths of last Season, the alteration in the mode of chanking [Marking] them, the deficiency in the delivery of some of his allotment of silk, and the ordinary quality of that article which he delivered, and which he was desirous of recalling but was not in time to prevent its being sent Home.

21. The letter from the Board of Trade of the 27th Ultimo will point out to you the steps taken since the change in that Department, the intentions of that Board, with respect to the old Balances, the Instructions given to the Commercial agents, and every matter relative to the Business of the new Investment which the short Period of their appointment would admit to this letter with its subsidiary Papers, we beg leave to refer, for the reasons which have Induced us to reduce the Chiefship to residencies, and at the same time, beg leave to acquaint you, that all the establishments, under the Commercial Department are soon to be newly arranged and proportioned in point of Expence to the amount of Goods to be provided at each Factory.

22. Mr. John Cheap having resigned his place of Sub : Accountant we were induced to appoint Mr. Bartholomu to that Office, from the very strong recommendation in his favor delivered in by the late Governor General and from the favorable, testimonial of his Conduct and ability given by our Accountant General. This Gentleman not being in your Service, is only to hold the Office of Sub Accountant until some Covenanted Servant, who possesses the necessary qualifications, shall be willing to undertake the Duties of that Station or your orders are received upon this Subject, We must at the same time, acquaint you that Mr. Larkins has intimated his intention to resign the Office of Accountant General in the Year 1789.

23. Mr. Thomas Evans has given ample Security to answer all claims which may be brought forward against him, on account of the several Employments which he held, we permitted him to resign your Service on the 28th Ultimo and he proceeds on the Oxford.

## 24. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows.

	Rs.	as.	ps.
Ready Money . . . . .	5,92,362	14	5
General Bank Notes . . Sa. Rs. . 2,17,500 or . . . . .	2,52,300	0	0
Crs. Rs. . . . .	8,44,662	14	5
Balance account Deposites . . . . .	5,03,757	9	4
Balance Accountant General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918	3	3
Balance of the old Bonded Debt on which the Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117	0	8
New Bonded Debt at 8 P Cent . . . . .	1,40,17,077	11	8
Do. Do. account Madras Military Arrears . . . . .	28,58,513	3	9
Do. Do. account Bombay Military Arrears . . . . .	23,40,903	2	9
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0	0
	1,99,02,286	15	5

Fort William  
the 6th March 1787.

We have the honor to be & ca.

[Endorsement]

1787.

Draft of the General Letter by the Earl of Oxford dated 6 March dispatched the 7th.

20

## LETTER DATED 27 JULY 1787

*Efforts for providing increased investments in different branches on advantageous terms—Barlow's report against investment in Oudh cloth—revised subordinate establishment for the Commercial Department—new arrangements for Dacca investment in view of irregularities by Grueber, the Resident—further developments in legal action against corrupt officials connected with silk contracts—lists prepared of private persons under Company's jurisdiction for legal purposes—remittances to China—Bombay Government's dues towards Maharaja of Travancore—Capt. Kyd to make military survey of Penang—progress in Botanical Garden near Calcutta.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had the honor to address you from this Department under date the 6th March last by the Earl of Oxford Our Dispatches were  
Consn. 16 th. received on Board on the 9th and Captain White-  
March. quitted the Pilot on the 14th.

2. Since that period we have received your Commands under date the 22d. December 1786 and 10th January 1787, by the different Ships of this Season which have severally imported as follows.

Thetis . . . . .	28th May
Britannia . . . . .	12th June
Atlas . . . . .	16th June
Princess Royal . . . . .	19th June
Bushbridge . . . . .	19th June
Henry Dundas . . . . .	24th June
Rodney . . . . .	28th June
Princess Amelia . . . . .	21st July
Lord Camden . . . . .	24th July

3. Your orders as contained in the above mentioned Letters, were regularly communicated to the different Departments or  
 4th. June. Individuals concerned as will appear by referring to  
 18th June. our Resolutions upon the several Paragraphs in  
 abstract recorded in the Proceedings noted in the  
 Margin.

4. We have already apprized you that on the return of the Ravensworth from the Services to which we had destined her at Penang & Fort Marlbro', it was our Intention to furnish her with a Cargoe and dispatch her to Europe. The Services having been performed by Captain Roddam he made the best of his way to Bengal and arrived here on the 17th July. His departure will be expedited as fast as possible we suppose the Cargoe will Amount to Current Rupees 8,00,000, but of that circumstance you will be more fully advised when we receive the Invoices from the Board of Trade.

5. By this Conveyance you will receive Duplicate of our Letter of the 6th. March, our Public Proceedings for the 28th February to the end of July, and our Separate Proceedings, regarding Fort Marlbro', Prince of Wales Island, and Contingent Bills for the same period with Monthly Indexes complete.

6. Our address of the 19th February will have informed you of the Amount appropriated to the supply of Investment for the Season of 1787/8, the expected receipts of former Balances, and the deficiencies for which we had deemed it adviseable to make allowance.

7. The Right Hon'ble the Governor General's Minute, and our Resolutions thereon, which accompanied the same Letter will also have fully informed you of our deliberations on the most Advantageous mode of providing the Investment. And you will observe that we have availed ourselves of the Option left to us by your Orders, of adopting the different modes of Agency and Contract as we deemed most Advantageous. The Advertisement published by our directions inviting proposals for the latter are recorded on 22nd.

22d. January. January and our address of the 6th March will have  
 were delivered acquainted you that we had referred such offers as  
 to us for the Cloth provision to the Board of Trade  
 21st. February and for the Indigo allotment to Messrs. Harris and  
 Prager, requiring their respective Reports.

8. On the 12th March we received from the Board of Trade and  
 Consn. 12th. took into immediate consideration an Extract of  
 March. their Proceedings containing a full Examination of  
 the different Cloth proposals referred to them. The  
 mode of calculation adopted by the Board of Trade, and the obser-  
 vations which they have recorded in the progress of this Complex  
 Business, we beg leave to refer to your particular attention. They  
 are too Voluminous to be comprised in an address of this nature, and  
 too important to be perused only in abstract.

9. Our Resolutions upon each distinct subject invariably Con-  
 Consn. 12th. formed to the Spirit of your Orders, the lowest terms  
 .March in every Instance accompanied with good Security  
 were therefore accepted tho' some Cases occurred  
 sufficiently cogent to have Sanctioned a deviation from that precise  
 Line, but we wished to establish the conviction that we were  
 influenced by the strictest Equity and under that Idea we warned  
 both the Contractors and their Securities, that Acts of Oppression  
 or any improper Treatment to the Weavers would be punished in the  
 most exemplary manner, and that the penalty for failure in Engage-  
 ment would be most rigidly enforced, a determination, from which  
 we shall not depart.

10. Of their Exertions to fulfill these Engagement[s] we cannot,  
 Consn. 12th. under such Circumstances reasonably entertain any  
 March. Doubt, on the Contrary, unless some unforeseen  
 Misfortune should occur we are persuaded that the  
 Extent of our Expectations for this Year will be entirely completed  
 in due time.

11. On the 21st March the report from Messrs. Harris and Prager,  
 upon the Indigo proposals, and the Proceedings of the Board of  
 Trade thereupon, have been transmitted to us were duly considered.  
 —The complex and extensive Discussion of this Subject is equally  
 deserving your attention with the reference before  
 Consn. 21st. made regarding the Cloth Provision it would be no  
 March. less difficult to be Comprehended in Abstract, Our  
 Ultimate Decision on the Engagements was regu-  
 lated by the same rule in this case as the former, such  
 proposals as were evidently the lowest, and the Articles deemed pro-  
 ductive of advantage were acceded to, but as the produce of these  
 Manufactures was inadequate to the Complete supply of the destined  
 Allotment, we Authorized the Board of Trade to offer a reduction in  
 price and in some Instances to require an alteration in the Musters  
 from the other proposers whose first Terms were wholly rejected.

12. On the 23d. of April their Subsequent Proceedings, in conse-  
 quence of the offer of reduction in price which we-  
 Consn. 23d. April. had authorized them to make were submitted to  
 us.—Our proposition met an unqualified refusal  
 from all, but modified offers were then made by  
 some Gentlemen, and some entirely new were brought forward, These  
 we agreed to, under the particular stipulations suggested by the  
 Board of Trade, and we further permitted them to pursue the most

eligible Measure for providing the deficiency which still remained of the allotted supply.

13. At the Recommendation of the Board of Trade we have in several Instances deviated from the first Allotments which in our Resolutions of the 29th January appear to have been made to the different Branches of your Investment providing by Agency, some have in a small degree been diminished, others (when the Articles were believed likely to Turn out to advantage) have been encreased. The additional Provision however is not made from any positive Extension of the Investment but furnished from the unappropriated parts of the Original fund.

14. Our Proceedings Noted in the Margin will acquaint you with the particular alteration and of the general Appropriation for the Investment as far as it is completed.

15. The large Stock of Salt Petre on hand and your Orders for a Reduction in this Article induced us in the first instance to allot only one Lac of Current Rupees for the present year's provision, but we have since been influenced by Arguments both politically and Oeconomically conclusive to extend it under certain Restrictions, not however with a view of consigning any addition to you, but to be disposed of for ready Money in Calcutta, we beg leave to refer you to the reasoning at large upon this subject recorded in our Consultation of the 18th May not doubting your full approbation when the importance of the Measure is considered with the attention it merits.

16. Our letter of the 6th March last informed you of the object of Mr. Barlow's deputation into the Viziers' Dominions we now transmit you Numbers in the Packet. The Copy of his report Recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin together with the Copy of a Letter from the Board of Trade containing an Account of the Proposals for Contract for an Owde Investment for 1787/8 received by them in consequence of an Advertisement which we had directed them to publish to that effect, in order that we might not lose the opportunity of providing an Investment, in case we should determine upon that measure after the receipt of Mr. Barlow's report.

17. Having maturely considered these proposals and Mr. Barlow's reasons against the provision of an Investment on account of the Company in Owde, it appears to us that the Provision could not be effected without the support and Influence of this Government and of course under any form must be virtually considered as a Monopoly, a measure contrary to your repeated injunctions particularly of 14th March and 12th April 1786 and injurious to the internal Commerce of the Country as well as an Infringment on the rights of the Vizier's Government. For these reasons we Resolved to decline it for the present year and of this we informed the Board of Trade accordingly.

18. Mr. Barlow has since been directed to extend his Enquiries into the State of the Trade in the Province of Consn. 18th May. Benares, the result of his Investigation will be communicated to you in some future dispatch as soon as he has brought it to a Conclusion.

19. We are apprehensive that the Provision of Drugs under the Inspection of Mr. Prager for this Year, will be entirely suspended, as the Board of Trade have informed us that in reply to a late Requisition on the subject He had told them that there was Consn. 23rd July. no immediate prospect of obtaining any Articles which would turn out Advantageous, as Indigo was excluded.

20. In the 21st Paragraph of our Letter under date the 6th March last we acquainted you that it was our Intention to form a new Arrangement of the Establishments under the Commercial Department, the first Proceeding upon this subject which comprehends the Subordinate Stations is recorded in our Consultation of the 4th April. The principle laid down by the Board of Trade in Consn. 4th April. their Revisal of these Establishments Vizt. "That such allowances should be made us with due Moderation and Oeconomy as are really requisite for the Transaction of the Company's Affairs" Appears to us most likely to meet your wishes, under this Idea they made Retrenchments in unnecessary Charges, and Encrease in those points which required it.

21. We confirmed the Subordinate Establishments on the 11th. Consn. 11th April. April and on the 23d the subsequent ones proposed Do. 23rd Do. for the Detail of your Affairs at the Presidency fully satisfied that the necessary attention to Oeconomy was not neglected when any Reduction could be effected without injury to the General Conduct of your Concerns.

22. Tho' the savings at the Subordinates are but small and those at the Presidency do not very much exceed the Consn. 23rd April. Reductions enforced last Year still a grand point of Reform is attained in the completion of a Regular System which we have every reason to believe will be permanent, as it is founded upon local Experience in many points, and in all derives advantage from the observation of former unavoidable evils which are now guarded against with the greatest circumspection.

23. Subsequent to the Arrangement of the above Establishment for the Commercial Department It was deemed Necessary to appoint an Agent to Superintend the loading and unloading your Ships, your Export Ware House Keeper after fully considering the various modes by which this Business might be conducted, judged Consn. 27th June. it most advisable to Recommend an offer made to him by Mr. Bolts a Man of Experience and responsibility who engaged to Execute the Trust for the Monthly sum of 700 Sa. Rs. including Sloop hire, a Deputy, and all Charges. This Recommendation was approved by the Board of Trade and we confirmed it.

24. Mr. Frushard one of the Superintendants of the Silk Filatures having made it appear that the Allowances to which your Orders per Dutton has reduced him were not equal to those settled in his Covenants to which we conceived he had an indisputable right. We deemed ourselves bound in Justice to pay him the difference and Authorized his Arrears to be discharged, we however made an Alteration in his future receipts by permitting him to draw for travelling Charges, only whilst he was employed upon the Company's Concerns, in contradiction to a fixed Monthly allowance as formerly settled.

Consn. 11th April.

25. The Instructions prepared by the Board of Trade for their Cloth and Silk Agents are entered in our Proceedings of the 28th February, and 12th March, Copy of the former were transmitted you by the Earl of Oxford, upon a general review of them, as far as we can judge of the Detail and progressive stages of the different Branches they appear calculated to enforce a regular and due performance of the Trusts. We accordingly approved and Authorized their adoption.

Consn. 28th Feb.

26. In the Consultation noted in the Margin you will observe along correspondence which had passed between Mr. Grueber your Resident at Dacca and the Board of Trade, and a Minute of that Board explanatory of the reference to us.

21st May.

27. After perusing the Papers at large, and a full Discussion of the Subject by particular Conversation with the President and Members of the Board of Trade we were thoroughly convinced that Mr. Grueber's Conduct had in many points deviated from the Regulations which were established for the guidance of the Commercial Agent, that the rates stated by him as required by the Weavers were from their inaccuracy inadmissible that his Explanations were unsatisfactory, that his Correspondence was only productive of Delays, and the Necessary information not obtained tho' the Season was rapidly Advancing: The ill state of Mr. Grueber's Health rendered him incapable of these exertions which were indispensably requisite.

28. For these reasons we judged it most expedient to depute a Member of the Board of Trade to Dacca to carry on a local Enquiry, and during its Continuance to invest him with entire Authority over all your Servants and Dependants at that Station, suspending the power of Mr. Grueber for the time.

Consn. 21st May.

29. We appointed Mr. Kennaway to this Duty and furnished him with such Instructions as we deemed Necessary for his Guidance, in adjusting the proper Prices to be paid to the Weavers, the Extent of Advances to be made, the period and Quantities of their deliveries, and the Charges which must unavoidably be incurred, and we authorized him Ultimately to extend his Enquiries into the Outstanding Balances at that Quarter, which also appeared to us to require a more thorough

Consn. 21st May.

Examination than had yet been made into them, making progressive reports to the Board of Trade.

30. Mr. Kennaway proceeded with all expedition to Dacca. We are not yet apprized of the extent to which his  
 Consn. 23rd July. Enquiry has gone, or the probable period to it's conclusion, but as we were generally given to understand that it's Termination is more distant, than it was at first expected, and that the Duties in other respect required of Mr. Kennaway as a Member of the Board of Trade and in Charge of the Import Ware House would not admit of his longer absence from the Presidency, we ordered Mr. John Bebb the Commercial Resident at Santipore to proceed to Dacca and take Charge of, and complete the Investigation in the mode Mr. Kennaway had begun, in the mean time we committed your concerns at Santipore to Mr. Edward Fletcher the Secretary of the Board of Trade and appointed Mr. Willam Edmonstone to that Station.

31. The Commercial Balances of 1783/4 4/5 and 6/7 agreeably to a Statement furnished us by the Board of Trade  
 Consn. 23rd April. Amounted on the 17th April 1787 to Ct. Rs. 21,29,201-15-10.

32. For the speedy recovery of those incurred in the two former Years, we instructed the Board of Trade to Pursue  
 Consn. 23rd April such measures as they deemed most effectual, and to call upon the Contractors of last Year to deliver their Accounts on or before the 1st. June, and the Balances of Advances for such parts of their Engagements as had not been fulfilled.

33. In pursuance of the preceding direction the Board of Trade on the 4th July acquainted us that they had called  
 Consn. 4th July. upon the Contractors who were indebted for the Investment of 1786/7 to repay immediately either in Cash, or the Certificates Advanced them, the Sums owing from them respectively.

34. They at the same time submitted to us Letters from Messrs. Grueber, Keighly and Gale, stating that they were  
 Consn. 4th July. actually in possession of Goods sufficient to liquidate [liquidate] their Balances, but that Circumstances (which the Board of Trade consider not without Foundation) had prevented their timely Delivery and accordingly requested indulgence.

35. As the Letter upon the above subject from Mr. Grueber had not been replied to by the Board of Trade, that  
 Consn. 4th July. Gentleman thought proper to instruct his Attorney Mr. Barton to tender One Lac of Rupees in Certificates in part liquidation of his Balance, of which he advised the Board of Trade in a Letter dated 21st June, and he further promised after being furnished with the last reprizing of Dacca Cloths to make out the final Account and to discharge the remainder of his Balance.

36. Our Resolution requiring the liquidation of the Balances of 1786/7 after the 1st. June in Cash or Certificates, was not intended to apply to those persons whose deliveries of Goods were retarded by natural Impediments, and as, the Certificates tendered by Mr. Grueber's Attorney were of posterior dates to those Advanced him and consequently inadmissible [sic], we adopted the expedient of

Authorizing the Board of Trade to receive those Cloths which Mr. Grueber declared him self willing to deliver, as soon as the Season of bleaching enabled him to do it, and to grant such further time to Messrs. Keighly and Gale as in their discretion appeared just and equitable.

37. We are now concerned to acquaint you that subsequent advices from Dacca have informed us that Mr. Grueber notwithstanding the state which he at first mentioned his

23rd do. Cloths to be in had disposed of them without waiting for an Answer to his proposal, and that when the Answer was received, his Assistant who was in charge had proffered other Cloths the delivery of which cannot be completed so soon.

38. Tho' we are highly displeased with Mr. Grueber we are still of Opinion that it will be more advantageous to the Company to receive even later Goods than to Accept Certificates or Cash in liquidation of his Balance, and we have accordingly directed the Board of Trade to receive the Goods provided Mr.

Grueber's Securities will consider themselves as 23rd July Ultimately responsible under the extension of the time of his Contract, but if they do not, or if they are not legally considered so, to revert to the only Alternative left, vizt. to recover the Amount in Certificates making due Allowance for the difference of dates.

39. Conformably to your Orders Respecting the Madeira Wine consigned to us in the Ships Britannia, and Rodney, It was examined on it's arrival, and reported of inferior Quality to your Imports of former Years, This and a calculation made by the Board of Trade that it would not produce at public Auction, the prime Cost Charges and per Centage, which you directed to be put upon it induced us to Order it to be sold on account of the Original proprietors Messrs. Searle & Co. according to your Agreement with them, but as

Consn. 23rd July Advertizing it under the Description of Wine rejected by the Company, might have prejudiced the Sale, we have ordered it to be published indefinitely as Wine imported in the Company's Ships. This subject will be found at large in our Consultation of the 23rd. July, and we beg leave to refer you to it, in case any objections should be made to the mode in which we have thought it most Adviseable to settle it.

40. As the Camden arrived only a few days since, we have not yet been furnished with any Report as to the Quality of Madeira on board her.

41. Several Articles heretofore entered in the Dead Stock Account of the Luckipore Factory and its Appendages, which some years

ago were washed away by the River Megna, being  
 Consn. 13th July no longer proper to be entered as Articles of Effect,  
 we have Authorized them to be written off in the  
 Company's Books Agreeably to a proposal from the Board of Trade.

42. The Suspension of Messrs Barton, Rider, and Bateman, you  
 were advised of in our Letter of the 6th March. The latter gentleman  
 Addressed us on the 11th April stating that he had filed his Answer  
 in the Supreme Court to the Suit in which he was included, and had  
 disavowed upon Oath his privity Knowledge or Sus-

Consn. 11th April picion of any fraud having been practised upon the  
 Company in any Silk Contract whatsoever, he then  
 appealed to our Equity and Justice that the Suit against him might  
 be discontinued, and that he might be restored to his Station.

43. We referred this Letter to the Advocate General and called  
 upon him for his opinion whether any, and if any  
 Consn. 11th April what legal Proceeding would ensue in consequence  
 of Mr. Bateman's reply to the Bill in Equity carry-  
 ing on against him.

44. His answer was received on the 23d. April. It confirms the  
 particular Assertions of Mr. Bateman as to the Bill depending against  
 him in consequence of Mr. Rider's Contract, and it

Consn. 23rd April adds that unless it could be proved in contradiction  
 to what Mr. Bateman has Sworn, that he did receive  
 a part of the Profit of Mr. Rider's Contract or some douceur from him  
 or his Agents, it would only heap expence on the Company to  
 continue the Suit.

45. In continuation of the same subject the Advocate General  
 observed that Mr. Bateman's reply is also applicable to the Suits in  
 which it was intended to include him for a partici-

Consn. 23rd April pation in the Profits of Mr. Henchman's Contract,  
 that an absolute denial having been once given of  
 course it would be repeated, and that the consequence to the Company  
 in case of inability to disprove it, would be the same.

46. As Mr. Bateman's Letter to us was applied to all the Suits in  
 Agitation against him, the Advocate General's

Consn. 23rd April opinion was extended to them, and as we had no  
 proofs to produce in Contradiction to an unequivocal  
 Declaration upon Oath (for such we conceive Mr. Bateman's to have  
 been) we ordered him to be restored to his Station,

Consn. 23rd April his Arrears of Salary to be discharged, and his name  
 to be Struck out of the Bill actually filed, and all  
 further suits to be discontinued against him.

47. Agreeably to the Advocate General's recommendation after a  
 perusal of the Answer delivered in by Messrs. Barton and Rider to

Consn. 11th July the beforementioned Bill, we also ordered it to be  
 dismissed as to Mr. Barton having no proofs to pro-  
 duce in contradiction to what he and Mr. Rider had sworn; but as  
 the answer delivered by Mr. Rider was deemed evasive and imperfect

in many points, and disclosed some facts which had altered the Grounds of the Charges against him. This Bill so far as he was concerned, we directed our Law Officers to amend.

48. Mr. Blacquire your Superintendant of the Cloth Investment submitted to us sundry Statements of Justification in Answer to the Charges against him, relating to the ready made purchase of Cloths in 1784 upon which he grounded a request that an Examination of his Conduct might be made by the President & members of the Board of Trade, and that the Bill preparing against him might be suspended until further Orders on the report of such Examination.

Consn. 29th March

49. Your Advocate General was consulted upon these Statements and gave his opinion that, provided the Assertions were true, there was Ground for suspending the prosecution until an Examination has taken place, he however further explained himself that he did not mean it to be understood, even admitting all the facts alledged by Mr. Blacquire to be true, and his Statements fair and Accurate, that every Ground of Suspicion was removed or that he had given a complete Justification.

Consn. 4th April

50. The points unnoticed by Mr. Blacquire from which weighty grounds of suspicion and Complaint are derived, appeared to be equally Objects of previous Enquiry to Mr. Davis, as the Justness as [and?] fairness of his Statements and the Truth of his Assertions, because, if by such Enquiry they were found to be erroneous, an Expensive and troublesome Suit would be avoided, but if well founded, would furnish sure ground for conducting the Prosecution and facilitate the proof of those facts which it might be necessary to establish in support of it.

Consn. 4th April

51. Under this Idea we assented to Mr. Blacquire's Application so far as to order the Enquiry he requested, but we at the same time directed the Advocate general to proceed with such materials as he could collect for preparing the Bill, deferring however to file it until he should receive further Instructions from us.

Consn. 4th April

52. In a Letter lately received from the Board of Trade, we are informed that to enable them to proceed in this Enquiry further Statements were required from Mr. Blacquire which on Application to him had been refused because we had continued our preparations for his prosecution, the event of which he was now willing to abide by.

Consn. 23rd July

53. This declaration from Mr. Blacquire having precluded the necessity of further Enquiry, we have taken off[f] the restraint from the Advocate General's proceedings, and directed the Bill to be filed as soon as possible.

Consn. 23rd July

54. The Company's Attorney reported to us on the 21st May that the Bill in Equity against Mr. William Barton and

Consn. 21st May

Mr. Thomas Henschman was filed, Copy of it attends you in the Packet.

55. Previous to the receipt of this Report Mr. Henschman had obtained our permission to proceed to England in the Ravensworth on his engaging to give Bale for his appearance to  
 Consn. 18th May Answer the Event of the Suit carrying on against him in the Amount of One Lac of Rupees.

56. In order to avail himself of this Indulgence he informed us on the 21st July that he had filed his Answer to the Complaint, and was  
 Consn. 23rd July desirous of an early Intimation whether the Advocate General had any exceptions to make to it.

57. The Advocate General was accordingly called upon. Such material objections as occurred to him on a cursory Reading were immediately pointed out to us, others he informed  
 Consn. 27th July us were noted, and there was a probability that more would present themselves on a more attentive perusal of the Bill, and answer.

58. Mr. Davis however having been apprized of our Assent to Mr. Henschman's return to England in the Ravensworth, proceeded to  
 Consn. 27th July point out to us two Modes by which it might be effected without Expence or Delay. If Mr. Henschman acquiesced in either.

59. Copy of this Opinion is forwarded a Separate Number in the Packet, and we have left it to Mr. Henschman's option to Acquiesce in either of the modes proposed, as the only Grounds upon which our permission to return to England will be confirmed.

60. At the Instance of the Advocate General on the 18th May we directed the Company's Attorney to demand from Messrs. Barton, Rider Keighly, Sumner, Henschman and Blacquire all  
 Consn. 18th May their Books Papers and Accounts which might contain any matters connected with, or relative to, the Affairs of the  
 Consn. 28th May Company. Their several Answers recorded in the  
 Consn. 4th July Consultation Noted in the Margin were sent to the Advocate General as they were received.

61. In a Letter dated 23rd. June recorded in the Consultation noted in the Margin, the Advocate General suggested to us the Advantage and propriety of joining some of the Sellers of the  
 Consn. 27th June readymade Goods in the Bill to be filed against Messrs. Barton, and Blacquire, and he enclosed a List of them, We acquainted him in reply that it was left entirely to his discretion to add such of them as he might think proper.

62. You will receive a Number in the Packet an Account difficiency  
 Consn. 4th April [sic] of Goods per Walpole to be recovered or adjusted with the Owners in England.

63. Captain Churchill refused to sign this Account when it was first presented to him, and in Justification of his refusal he stated the Losses to have arisen either from negligence, or Frauds committed by the Servants of the Import Ware House—These Charges led to a long Discussion with Captain Churchill and an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into the particulars.

64. The whole Proceeding is entered in our Consultation noted in the Margin, we agree with the Board of Trade that the Charges are by no means established, but as Captain Churchill had taken his final departure from Bengal before we were informed of the Transaction in its present State, we have no opportunity of Compelling him to settle it, with the circumstances in detail in your possession we have no doubt you will recover the amount.

65. On the 8th June we appointed Mr. John Bristow to fill one of the vacant Seats at the Board of Trade pro tempore.

66. Having found every other attempt in vain to obtain an exact account of all those persons residing in Calcutta, and the Provinces who are not in the Service of his Majesty or the Company we directed an Advertisement to be published peremptorily requiring all who came under the above-mentioned Description to give an Account of themselves by letter to the Secretary for this Department within three Months from the date thereof, that time being expired the Letters which were received are now digested into an Alphabetical Abstract, Copy of which we send you a number in the Packet.

67. This List tho' much fuller than any heretofore obtained is by no means so Complete as we could wish, many licensed by your Hon'ble Court appear in it, others tho' unlicensed have omitted to give an Account of themselves, under the idea (as we understand) that being Officers of the Supreme Court it is not required of them, and others again having no creditable mode of obtaining a livelihood are Apprehensive of being immediately sent away.

68. We have not formed any Resolution with respect to either Class but to enable us to carry legally into execution the powers committed to us by the Legislature, we have directed the Advocate General to prepare a progressive Summary of the different Laws Affecting Persons of this description, and to report to us the forms to be observed in our determination regarding them. This delay is altogether immaterial, as we understand no person can be sent home without previous Notice before the 1st. January 1788.

69. We are concerned to acquaint you that our Remittances to China which according to the Terms of our Engagements ought to have been paid into your Treasury on the 1st. of December 1786 were deficient to a very considerable Amount, when the last Letters from your Supra Cargoes were written.

70. The particulars of these deficiencies were Mr. Bruere on his own account, head dollars.....66,438-0-0. Captain Lloyd.....4,500-0-0. Captain Cox..... 6,550-0-0. Captain Waugh. ....49,200-0-0. the latter sum we have since learnt from Mr. Bruere is also a deficiency for which he considers himself responsible as the Engagement had been transferred to his account.

71. The total therefore of Mr. Bruere's deficiencies for 1785/6 is tread Dollars 1,15,638 [sic] and in addition to these he is under Consn. 19th Dec. Engagements made before advice of any failure 1786 arrived from China this year for '86/7/ to the amount of Current Rupees 5,60,000.

72. After premising that the transfer of Captain Waugh's Concern to Mr. Bruere, was entirely unknown to the Members of your Government, much less attended with their consent, and that we still consider the Securities for Captain Waugh and Mr. Bruere to be responsible to the Company, we shall proceed to inform you of the Steps which were immediately pursued to prevent your incurring any loss as far as it depended on us.

73. A Letter from Mr. Bruere recorded the 23d. April in Justification of his non performance of Engagements sets forth that it did not arise either from the want of funds or mismanagement on his part but that it proceeded entirely from untoward circumstances and the misconduct of some of his Agents. In proof of this Assertion he enters into a long recital of the different concerns which were entrusted to his Agents in the Eastern Seas, whose produce it was his Intention and order, Ultimately to have centered in China, and to have been disposed of in the liquidation of our demand.

74. Some of these had not reached their destined Port, and others tho' arrived in China remained to be sold, for which purpose they were joined with the Stock of several Merchants who were reduced to the necessity of forming a combination, to Counteract the Intent of a similar combination on the part of the Chinese to keep down the price of Opium, a measure which rendered the Sales tho' certain, more tardy.

75. For these reasons Mr. Bruere entreated us to allow him till Consn. 23d. April February 1788 to complete the Engagements of 1785/6.

76. The same letter from Mr. Bruere proceeds to a recapitulation of the different Exports made by him this Season which are also intended to be appropriated to the discharge of our subsequent Engagement of 1786/7 and an assignment of these Effects to the Company drawn up under the Inspection of your Advocate General accompanied it.

77. When this letter was considered in council your Advocate General was present and informed us that another Deed was drawn up for Mr. Bruere to execute, Mortgaging to the Company the

Consn. 23d. April Britannia Snow which Vessel was according to Mr. Bruere's letter to be sold in China and the produce carried to the Company's account, lest in case she should return to Calcutta, for want of a purchaser in China she might be seized by Mr. Bruere's private Creditors, and the surplus or profits if any should arise of the funds sent out this year, as specified in the first assignment.

78. This Deed of Mortgage gave some additional Security to the Company, and we immediately ordered it to be taken, and in consideration of the apparent necessity of the case we agreed to allow Mr. Bruere till the end of February 1788 to make good his Engagements for 1785/6, at the same time we required him to perform his promise regarding his Engagements of 1787 of furnishing extracts of his Instructions to the persons employed in the disposal of the Cargoes he had sent out, and the deposit of one Lac of Rupees in Company's Bonds.

79. By the way of Fort St. George we forwarded to your Supra Cargoes the Assignment above alluded to, and the Deed of Mortgage in Triplicate immediately, (the latter however with respect to the Britannia Snow, subject to three prior Incumbrances which were afterwards pointed out to the Advocate General) and we furnished for their guidance complete copies of Mr. Bruere's letters and every particular information in detail that they could require on this important subject. We at the same time urged their utmost exertions, and the adoption of such timely and effectual Precautions and measures as the circumstances on the spot might point out.

80. We have not been able to obtain the Bonds required of Mr. Bruere, but the extracts of Instructions to his Agents were furnished by him on the 21st May and were forwarded by the same route to your Supra Cargoes with a precaution which we deemed it necessary to give them respecting the mode of granting Certificates or receipts for payments made into their Treasury to consider such payments as far as they go in liquidation of the remittance of 1786/7 and entirely distinct of, and unconnected with that of the preceding year.

81. To conclude this unpleasant communication we have now only to observe after admitting an additional deduction which we have but lately been apprized of for the freight of the Lonsdown (Mr. Fergusson having transferred that Vessel to Mr. Bruere on the same terms that he hired her from the Company) as Mr. Bruere has not introduced into his calculations any Estimate of Profits which may reasonably be expected to arise on the sale of the several Articles of Merchandize he has sent out, we still entertain hopes that your demands will be discharged in the limited time, to prove indeed that they are still in progress, Mr. Bruere has since advised us of a further Payment made by his Attorney to the amount of Dollars 25,300.

82. Captains Cox and Lloyd have attributed the failure in their Engagements to the badness of Markets and other misfortunes; the former has requested our Indulgence till next Consn. 14th. Feb'ry year, and tho' we have not positively assented we Do. 22d. June have desired your Supra Cargoes to receive from either of these Gentlemen such sums as they may tender in liquidation of our demands upon them.

83. Your Supra Cargoes will have advised you of their having deputed Mr. Fitzhugh to Manilla, and the object they had in view from that measure, Mr. Fitzhugh did not come to Bengal his negociation, as he stated to us in a letter Consn. 4th June from Madras, failed, owing to a dispute between the directors of the Spanish Company at Manilla and the Council of Supervisors when the plan assented to by the former, was deemed disadvantageous by the latter.

84. This Plan never came before us in a state sufficiently advanced to require our immediate attention, and as it's failure has now rendered it unnecessary; we have not taken notice of it in our letters to your Supra Cargoes; it however has clearly convinced us of their wants which it is both our wish and intention to relieve to as great an extent as our own Situation and the exigencies of your other Presidencies will allow; when we have determined on the general supplies for the year, the means of remitting them will be also considered, but we are sorry to observe that with respect to China, the risk and difficulties of effecting it are always very great, and that we enter upon them with hesitation and apprehension.

85. Our supplies to Fort St. George and Bombay are however effected with more facility and less disadvantage, for the former we have already entered into an engagement with Mr. Tyler (whose proposals in consequence of a public Advertisement Consn. 28th. Febry. were the lowest) to deliver two lacs of Bags of Rice in the ensuing Season at the low rate of 4-10 per bag and in such other remittances as depend upon this Government you may be assured, due attention will be paid to your Interests.

86. Our Advertisement of the 28th February inviting proposals for the payment of 3 Lacs of Rupees to the Resident at Anjengo to be applied to the discharge of the debt due by your Government of Bombay to the King of Travancore Consn. 7th May Consn. 16th. March produced only one tender which, as the terms appeared to us highly unfavourable to the Company we rejected.

87. Our endeavours however to liquidate this demand did not stop here, we wrote immediately to Fort St. George expressing our anxiety regarding it, and desired them to adopt some Consn. 16th. March mode of remitting it from their Southern Districts, and to send us early advice that we might set aside Funds to discharge the drafts upon us for the amount.

88. Their reply acquaints us with the Orders they had issued for ascertaining the best Terms of effecting this remittance, and

tho' we have not yet been informed of it's completion, we hope that the knowledge of its being in agitation will prove beneficial in re-establishing the confidence of the King of Travancore in the Justice Consn. 28th. May of our dealings, and secure his future assistance to the Government of Bombay.

89. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal on a late reference to them, having given it as their opinion, that one Gaspar Bolt a native of Humburgh could not be tried at Fort St. George under the late Act of Parliament for a murder committed at Bemlepatam, and having in consequence suggested an application to the Legislature for an extension of jurisdiction both in respect to capital crimes and the persons who may commit them we enclose a copy thereof for your consideration a separate Number in the packet.

90. The different consignments to Prince of Wales's Island by the Ravensworth, as particularized in our letter of the 19th January Consn. 11th. April were landed in the following month, and our orders Consn. 13th June as far as circumstances would admit were immediately carried into execution by Captain Light.

91. His letter since that period as far as the general subject is concerned afford us satisfaction in their communication of the prosperous state of the settlement which private information fully corroborated.

92. The Political points which relate to the neighbouring Islands, the conduct and situation of the Dutch in the Eastern Seas, and some few observations regarding the French we have deferred taking into consideration until Captain Kyd, whom we deputed for the purpose of making a regular Military Survey of the Island and informing himself of other material points, shall return.

93. Captain Kyd proceeded on Board the Trial One of your Pilot Schooners in April. He arrived at Penang on the Consn. 11th. April Consn. 27th. July 28th May, and by the latest account we learn he has made some progress in the work.

94. On the Walpole's return from Fort St. George after the delivery of a consignment of Rice Agreeably to the Governor General's recommendation, we allowed Mr. George Tyler to freight her for the second Trip with 6,000 Bags of his first Contract. In this measure we were influenced by the consideration that the Garrison Store of that article was discoloured and tho' in other respects it might not (so circumstanced) have been disposed of to advantage.

95. But as the weather was exceedingly boisterous at the time this Ship was leaving the River and she might have been greatly endangered by detention, on a representation from the Agent Consn. 11th. April appointed to dispatch here we were induced to authorize him to give Captain Churchill his sailing orders Consn. 23d. April altho' a very small proportion of the intended quantity of Rice was on board she was accordingly dispatched on the 16th April.

96. Mr. Robertson the second Mate of the Walpole having been represented insane by Captain Churchill which was also confirmed in report of the Surgeons who examined him by our order was removed from that Ship and delivered to Mr. Kinderdine Surgeon in charge of the lunatics. He was afterwards on the application of Mr. A Campbell a relation entrusted to his care and a guard was allowed to secure him.

97. Captain Churchill on leaving Bengal transmitted to us a protest for not dispatching him to Europe before the Talbot, which as a direct Bengal Ship he conceived he was entitled to, copy of this protest is forwarded in the packet we thought it necessary to remark upon it in our proceedings that having established a rule last Season, to dispatch all the Ships according to their coming on demurrage, the exclusion of the Talbot would in that case have operated in favour of the Queen preferably to the Walpole, which renders the protest as to the latter nugatory.

98. To prevent complaints of this Kind in future we have now established it as a regulation from which no deviation will be admitted that every ship shall be dispatched in it's regular turn according to the arrival at their first port in India from which period agreeably to the Terms of Charter Party the demurrage after four months is calculated to commence.

99. This resolution we have inserted in the Instructions usually given to the commanders of your Ships on their arrival in Bengal, and as these Instructions have undergone some alteration this Year, we beg leave to refer them to your perusal.

100. Two of the Pilots Schooners Ordered last Year at Bombay are arrived and admitted on the Establishment in lieu of the most unserviceable which are sold, a third with the accounts we have every reason to expect in a few days as the last advices from the Presidency inform us of her being nearly finished.

101. The delay in forwarding these accounts has prevented us from forming any opinion how far the work has been properly executed, but from the expences which have been necessarily incurred since their arrival and from the defects pointed out by the Master attendant, we are apprehensive that it will not be very favourable.

102. The annual survey of this River previous to the arrival of your Ships was made by your Master Attendant agreeably to our orders, and his report thereof is recorded in our Consultation of the 13th June.

103. The works at Diamond point finally completed as per accounts delivered in by the Master Attendant and Marine Pay Master and Accountant General, cost the Company Ct. Consn. 23d July Rs. 3,51,802-15-6 and the Monthly necessary Establishment is 1647 Sa. Rs.

104. As the two former Gentlemen were promised and indeed merited a compensation for the attention they had shewn to this Work from its commencement, we readily admitted the charge of 10 P. Cent which they had inserted—And we thought it a Consn. 23d July justice to them to express upon record our high opinion of their disinterested conduct in negotiating the certificates advanced to them during it's progress, when by setting off the Interest of Certificates discharged in course, against the discount of such as were occasionally disposed of, a saving accrued to the Company on the balance.

105. Mr. Bruere having requested our permission in consequence of the embarrassed State of his concerns to relinquish the Office of Secretary to the Public Department we assented to it, and Mr. Jonathan Duncan our Assistant Secretary was immediately appointed to the station.

106. Arrangements in the Revenue Department subsequently adopted having removed Mr. Duncan to the Residency of Benares, The Right Hon'ble the Governor General availed himself of this occasion to propose a total alteration in the mode of conducting the business of Government Consn. 27th July more conformably as his Lordship has expressed in his minute to the 12th. Clause of the Act of the 26 year of the present reign.

107. This alteration constitutes one Secretary General with a Salary of 50,000 Sa. Rs. per annum in lieu of all perquisites, and three Assistant Secretaries to Superintend and conduct the detail of business in the distinct branches of Secret, Consn. 27th July Public and Revenue with Salaries of 1000 Rupees Monthly each, and fees arising from their respective duties.

108. Mr. Edward Hay is promoted to the station of Secretary General, and Messrs. John Lumsden and John White are confirmed as Assistant Secretaries in the Secret & Public Consn. 27th July Departments and Mr. Thomas Short is appointed Assistant Secretary to the Revenue Department.

109. The mode in which the Salaries allotted to these appointments are to be paid without subjecting the Hon'ble Company to any additional expence, will appear from the Calculation in Lord Cornwallis's Minute copy of which for your more Consn. 27th July particular information we transmit a separate Number in the Packet.

110. Mr. Bruere having been furnished with an Extract of your letter containing a complaint from the Government of St. Helena of his negligence in the provision of Stores for that Consn. 23d July Island, has entered into a justification of his

conduct which we deem satisfactory and transmit a copy of it for your perusal.

111. Messrs Bayne and Colvins the Agents of Mr. Vanderheyden having paid in the Bonds authorized in the 11th Paragraph of your letter 22d. December to be received from them by bills according to the terms of your remittance of the 15th September 1785, have been granted.

112. Mr. C. Crommelin in return for the favour conferred upon him in the 12th paragraph of your letter of the 22d. December 1786 has desired us to inform you of his gratitude and thanks.

113. The Hospital Board having reported the death of Mr. Kenderdine who had officiated as Surgeon to Lunatics we appointed Mr. Dick to do that duty with a monthly allowance of 200 rupees.

114. The intended Establishment of a Botanical Garden was noticed to you last year, a proper spot of Ground having been selected for it by Colonel Kyd in the vicinage of Calcutta, and a mode adopted of satisfying the possessors (who had no other Title, than possession to produce giving them a right of Tenure) the undertaking has since been in progress. It is attended with very little expence to the Company under the present Management and holds out a flattering prospect of rearing by care and attention in Bengal the valuable production of all parts of India.—To this end we have made application to your different Presidencies and thro' them to more distant places for sundry Plants, Trees & Ca. suggested by Colonel Kyd, and we beg leave to extend this application to you as we are persuaded from an experiment made by Captain Cumming of the Britannia who brought a great variety in good condition to Bengal, that it may be effected at a very trifling expence.

115. On this subject we beg leave to refer to your particular attention a letter from Colonel Kyd, and a list of the different Plants that he wishes to have sent out, which are forwarded a separate Number in the packet.

116. The Proceedings of the late Board of Inspection for the years 1781, 1782, 1783, and 1784 which your Hon'ble Court have complained of not having received, being now copies and examined and Indexes made there to are forwarded in the Packet.

117. As there are several Blanks in these Consultations it may be necessary to observe that some of the original Papers having never been delivered to this office, our Secretary was unable to fill them up. The frequent applications from the Supreme Court of Judicature and the removal of the records to the different parts of the

Town where the Secretaries have occasionally resided may in some degree be considered as the cause of this defect.

118. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows.

Ready Money			
General Bank Notes 1,31 Sa. Rs. 1,20,700-0-0	.	.	1,40,140 0 0
Gold Mohurs 12,479	.	.	2,31,610 3 10
		Carried over	3,71,622 3 10
		Brought over	3,71,622 3 10
Siccas 260-15-11	.	.	302 12 1
Copper Coin 3,58,511	.	.	12,996 0 5
		Ct. Rs.	3,84,921 0 4

Bills receivable Lucknow Sq. Rs. 10,13,041-7-6.

We have the honor to be & ca.

Fort William  
the 27th July 1787.  
Exad JS  
[Per Ravensworth]

21

## LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1787

*Reforms in Benares Residency—various reforms of administrative and commercial system—degrading practice of management of military bazars by Colonels—reorganisation of the finances of Nawab Mubarakud-Daulah of Murshidabad.*

**T**HE Honble. Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble. United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Honble. Sirs.

1. The dispatch from the Board accompanied with Copies of our proceedings will give a detailed account of all the late transactions of this Government.

2. Amongst the various objects which I brought under discussion I considered it as peculiarly incumbent on me to direct my very earnest attention to the situation of our valuable province of Benares.

3. Since our acquisition of that province, the powers of the Resident have been undefined, and his ostensible allowance of one thousand Rupees per month, so perfectly inadequate to the necessary expenses of his situation as to make it preposterous to suppose that he could live upon it. Custom had put him in possession of other emoluments, and of an influence to an extent, which I considered as incompatible with the prosperity and improvement of the Revenue and Commerce of the Zemindarry, and highly injurious to the

general interests of the Company. As I could not look upon the Governor General or Supreme Council, with whom the Resident had hitherto corresponded, to be competent for the conduct and direction of details, I proposed that the Resident of Benares should in future, not only be restricted to fixed and specified Allowances, but also be placed under the immediate control of the Committee of Revenue, and correspond with the Supreme Board upon political points only. Several complaints of certain exactions had been made by the Rajah against Mr. Grant, which are now under the examination of the Board; But, whatever may be the result of that enquiry, as there appeared no probability that Mr. Grant and the Rajah would act together with harmony in future, and as I believed that a new plan would have a better chance of success under a new President [Resident] I thought it expedient for the public good to remove Mr. Grant from that Office. The universally acknowledged ability and integrity of Mr. Jonathan Duncan pointed him out to me, as eminently qualified to render important services in that station. I wish only to promote the true interests and happiness of the Rajah, and of all the inhabitants of the district; and the restrictions under which their commerce has hitherto laboured, with an imperfect administration of justice through the greatest part of the Zemindary, I am afraid, have much room for improvement. Mr. Duncan will be directed to make his enquiries, and to propose remedies for defects, with great deliberation; and as Benares from its supposed Sanctity is frequented by the principal Hindoos from all quarters, I entertain some hopes, that by restoring it by good management to a flourishing state we shall acquire reputation with all Hindostan. The profits upon the Ophium alone which I directed some time ago to be prepared for the benefit of the Company, will more than defray the expense of the new Establishments, and there are several other articles, which, by the new plan, will also be placed to the credit of the public.

4. The mode in which the Company's Salt has hitherto been disposed of, appearing to me for a variety of reasons, to be extremely exceptionable, I determined to alter it; and I directed that this season the Salt should be put up to Public Auction, and sold, without partiality or favour to the fairest bidder. By exposing it in small lots, Natives of the most moderate fortunes have had it in their power to become purchasers, and I have the satisfaction to inform you, that between what has hitherto been called the Company's price, and the price for which it was actually sold, the public upon the quantity already disposed of, has gained upwards of five Lacks of Rupees. This mode of disposing of the Salt appears to me so evidently proper and advantageous, that I think no person will venture to change it, and I have no doubt of it's proving annually a Source of great additional profit to the Company.

5. I am clearly of opinion that in such a Country as this, where the Servants who hold the principal Offices are surrounded with temptations, it will ever be found, that the only mode that can be successful to prevent peculation and other abuses, will be, by annexing liberal allowances to those Offices, and give Gentlemen a prospect of acquiring by oeconomy, a moderate fortune from the fair savings of their Salaries. It is unnecessary for me to remark that

the late allowances to the Collectors of twelve hundred Rupees per Month, were by no means calculated upon the above principle. By the late Revenue arrangements, therefore, the allowances of those Gentlemen have been considerably increased by an addition to their Salaries and, by granting them a certain Commission upon their Nett Collections. This measure so highly in my opinion, conducive to the interest of the Company was adopted with the less apprehension of your disapproval, as, after executing the whole of the plan, we were considerably within the Sum allowed by you for the expenses of the Revenue Department. And after having on the part of Government, acted in so liberal a manner I have thought myself entitled to give public warning, that I shall consider myself as peculiarly called upon to be watchful of their conduct, and to treat most rigorously every deviation that I discover from their duty to the Company.

6. Our Investment has met with several obstructions, but I still hope that it will not materially fall short of our former expectations. I was sorry to be under the necessity of recalling so old a Servant as Mr. Grueber from the duty that had been entrusted to him at Dacca; but whether his misconduct was occasioned by want of attention, or want of health, it became equally necessary to take care that the public Service should not suffer. I have thought myself much obliged to Mr. Kennaway for the zeal and activity, with which he has endeavoured to put the Investment in good train in the different Aurungs of that valuable district.

7. There have been frequent complaints from the French Agents from several of the districts; they have been generally ill founded, but where there has appeared the smallest ground to support them, every remedy that was possible has been applied. The new regulations for the Weavers seem well calculated to put all fair traders of every kind upon a proper and equitable footing; and as I am persuaded that it will also prove advantageous to the Country at large, I shall take great pains to see them carried strictly into execution. Those regulations were principally framed by Mr. Charles Grant, to whom I have on many occasions, been greatly obliged for much useful assistance; and indeed I have great pleasure in declaring that in point of ability, integrity, and zeal for the public good, I think the Company does not possess a more valuable Servant. Having every reason to believe that the Company's Investment would be provided more advantageously, if begun earlier than has hitherto been the practice, I have already given some directions with that view, and I am not without hopes of being able to commence it on the 1st of January next, and to finish the provision within twelve months. If this can be accomplished, there will be good time to examine, and send properly the different articles: and we shall be able to dispatch the Ships as early in the season; as shall be thought expedient. The present flourishing state of our public Credit is extremely convenient for all the pecuniary transactions of Government, and must, no doubt, give great satisfaction to your Honble. Court.

8. In the 5th paragraph of my Letter No. 3 addressed to you on the 27th Decr. last,\* I acquainted you that some of the Merchants

\*See Charles Ross, *Correspondence of Charles, First Marquis Cornwallis* pp, 246-47.

of this place had made great complaints against the conduct of Supra-Cargoes at China, which they represented to be, by a spirit of Monopoly and combination, very prejudicial to the commerce existing between China and the Company's possessions in India. I must now, in candour to the Supracargoes, inform you, that since that time, the Merchants have not produced any specified charge against those Gentlemen, and having received the enclosed letter from Mr. William Fitzhugh, (who is a partner in the house of Messrs. Lane, Lance, and Fitzhugh), to vindicate the conduct of their house with respect to the Monopoly of the Ophium, I shall leave the whole business to the consideration of your Honble Court.

9. You will see in the proceedings of the Board, my reasons at large for some regulations that I lately proposed for the army on this establishment. Considerable Military advantages will frequently be derived by separating the Colonels from specifick Brigades; For Government will now be at liberty to employ them without ceremony, at the time, and in the manner; that, according to their talents, may be most suitable to the public Service. An alteration in the system of managing the Military Bazzars was particularly, and indeed for the public good indispensably, necessary. While the Colonel, by taking charge of the Bazar collections, was placed in a situation extremely degrading for an Officer of that rank, he had an interest, and he possessed the power, if not restrained by principles, to commit grievous oppressions, and every act of his in conducting that improper office, must have tended to weaken his authority over the troops, and to undermine the principles of Military discipline. I know that the practice of drawing these emoluments from the Military Bazzars, has only been founded on custom. It has however been an uninterrupted Custom of long standing in this Country, and as it is certainly proper that Officers, after they arrive at high rank, should in some form or another enjoy large incomes to enable them, by their Savings, to pass the latter part of their lives in their own Country, I was induced to give a sanction to the division of the general fund among them, when brought under a plan of collection and management, which could not injure the public Service.

10. I shall not enter into the particulars of the late arrangements in the Nizamut, as they will be very fully contained in the public dispatch. Notwithstanding the great advantages that the Nabob Mobarrik-ul-Dowlah has obtained by our withdrawing the British Officers from his Body Guard, as well as relieving him from the heavy expense of a Resident, officious interested people had contrived to infuse so extravagant ideas into his mind, that I am afraid those favours fell greatly short of his expectations. It appeared also that he had been taught to consider several of the measures, that justice, as well as your instructions, required, for securing reasonable pensions to certain relations and dependents, and for discharging by instalments the old debts of the family, as in some degree infringing upon his dignity and personal privileges. In passing Moorshedabad I was at some pains, and I believe not entirely without success, to remove those impressions, and I left him in a disposition to give a good humoured acquiescence to the greatest part of the judicious plan, which had been framed by Mr. Ives, for

establishing order and regularity in his finances. The Nabob continued to express the most extreme unwillingness to part with his unworthy Dewan, Rajah Sonder Sing, But on my acquiescing in his earnest entreaties that he might be permitted to remain Office until the 1st of October, he gave me a positive promise to conform to our wishes without further remonstrance.

11. I presume that your Honble. Court are not unacquainted with the peculiar distress and misfortunes, of Mrs Watson, Widow of the late Colonel, I am very sorry to inform you that there appears to be very little prospect of her obtaining any part of the property or effects of her late husband in this Country. The considerable fortune which the Colonel possessed, precludes her from any claim to the usual pension; But her case is so extremely compassionate that I must take the liberty of earnestly recommending her to your consideration, as a proper object to share in the extra part of Lord Clive's bounty, which arose from interest on the original Capital, and which is in the disposal of your Honble. Court.

12. I have now passed Monghyr on my way to visit the Upper Provinces, and the different stations of the Army. I have some reasons to apprehend that the discipline of the troops is in an imperfect state, and I am therefore convinced that your interests require that I should personally inspect them. There are also within the bounds of my intended tour, many important objects in the Civil Department, to which I shall certainly pay a very minute and serious attention.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Honble, Sirs

Your most obedient and Most humble Servant

Cornwallis

On the Ganges.

August 18, 1787.

(Endorsed :—)

No. 7

On the Ganges

18th August, 1787

Letter from Earl Cornwallis to the Court of Directors

Recd. Per Ravensworth, 30 March 1788

[Bengal Letters Received Vol. 26, pp. 211-227]

## LETTER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1787

*Regulations for determining the order of dispatch of various ships from Calcutta—allocation of funds for various Presidencies—trees and plants from India for the botanical garden at St. Vincent Island in England—Capt. Kyd's plan and memoir of Penang Island received.*

**To the Hon'ble Court of Directors & ca & ca**

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our letter of the 27 ultimo which forms a separate number in the present Packet, will furnish you with information of all the material occurrences in this Department till the departure of Earl Cornwallis from the Presidency; we shall now acquaint you with such matters, as appear upon our Proceedings in the Month of August previous to the final close of our dispatches Pr. Ravensworth.

2. The Minerva imported here on the 14th Instant, and by her we were honored with the receipt of your orders contained in your  
 Consn. 14th. Augt. general letters of the 27th March. These were read in Council the same day an abstract was directed to be prepared, and the papers of the Packet were distributed as usual to the different departments.

3. Our whole attention was at this moment occupied in compiling the voluminous dispatches for the Ravensworth and in making arrangements of our finances for the year which we deemed necessary for your information by that Ship,  
 Consn. 14th. Augt. We were anxious to take into immediate consideration, and to pass our final decision upon the different orders contained in these letters, but we were aware that the various important subjects if properly attended to, would interfere with, and inevitably impede the business in hand, which we were equally desirous to complete; for these reasons we judged it  
 Consn. 14th. Augt. most adviseable and accordingly determined to proceed in the work we had begun, we however at the same time resolved in the event of any delay in the final despatch to communicate the purport of whatever measures we might adopt in a subsequent letter applicable solely to that subject.

4. Having experienced many Inconveniencies last year from the anxiety, and consequent competition of the Commanders of your Ships to obtain an early dispatch, we adopted in this Season a regulation which we were persuaded would entirely prevent a repetition of our embarrassment and in the end afford general satisfaction.

5. With this view we finally resolved that each Ship should be returned in rotation according to their arrivals at the first destined Port from which period we calculated the demurrage  
 Consn. 7th. May. to commence. If as is generally the case they had all been directed to call at Fort St. George our intentions

would have answered, but as some arrived here, and others touched at Madras at nearly the same period, the right to priority of dispatch became a question.

6. With regard to the direct Bengal Ships it was difficult to decide at which time the period of their arrival was to be fixed, the Pilots taking charge, their Anchoring in this River, their Mooring at Diamond Point, and the receipt of their Packet at the Council House, were all urged to be the proper periods of reckoning as different Interests were affected to the Company indeed it was in immaterial consideration but having once established a rule we were anxious that it should be strictly and justly enforced.

7. A discussion which took place last year between Captains Hardcastle and Mitchell afforded a precedent which tho' not exactly in point was applicable in principle to the question. These Gentlemen were guided by the opinion of their brother Officers in giving the claim to priority of Dispatch to the Ship which arrived first at Diamond Harbour and in confirmation of that opinion we also observe that the demurrage which your Supra Cargoes are to receive for the Hillsborough is calculated according to agreement with the freighter to commence from four months after the arrival at her moorings.

8. That rule for the present Season was therefore adopted as least liable to objection, tho' we are aware that it may be still subject to future revisal, as your orders hitherto do not render it necessary for the Ships to come up to Diamond Harbour.

9. Our Secretary having according to this principle submitted to us, a list of the Ships, as they arrived at both Presidencies prepared from official Documents, and the President of the Board of Trade having at the same time procured from the Export Ware House keeper, an Estimate of the probable periods at which the Cargoes will be ready we settled then respective destination as follows :—

Thetis and Busbridge . . . . .	21st November
Princess Royal . . . . .	15th December
Britannia and Dundas . . . . .	25th December
Atlas . . . . .	15th January
Rodney . . . . .	10th February
Princess Amelia . . . . .	25th Do.
Camden and Minerva . . . . .	5th March

10. The Britannia and Dundas are destined to call at Fort St. George the latter of these Ships is particularly requested by that Government to take a complete Cargoe in January, but as the remainder of their

expected Goods will most likely not be ready so early as the Britannia is entitled to be dispatched, It is not improbable that she may be furnished with a full Cargo from hence in which case the Ship next in rotation will of course proceed to Madras to receive the Goods originally allotted to the Britannia.

11. By the preceding Paragraphs you will observe that ten Ships are arrived in Bengal. Our former advices will have fully convinced you that the utmost of returns for which we had made Provision could not exceed 7 Ships including the Ravensworth; with the expected Assistance from Fort St. George we entertained hopes of completing two more and it was in contemplation to have dispatched the two remaining Ships to China by which means the heavy expence of demurrage for detaining them another Season would have been avoided. The latter Idea is done away by the arrival of your late orders, we intended to avail ourselves of the licence contained in them with respect to private Goods tho' as we are prejudice, or retard the deliveries of your Investment, we have generally declared our intention of dispatching all your Ships to Europe without avowing by what means it is to be accomplished.

Consn. 17 Augt.

12. In this place we think it our duty to remark that the early departure of your Ships from Europe and their rapid Passages render it impossible to comply with your wishes in dispatching them before they come upon demurrage.

13. We cannot elucidate this position more strongly than by acquainting you that according to the terms of Charter Party eight of the ten Ships now here will be entitled to it, before we are at liberty to dispatch one without subjecting you to the probability of losses which might arise from damages happening to their Cargoes.

Consn. 17 Augt.

14. As the indulgence granted to Individuals of exporting Raw Silk to Europe on your Chartered Ships was to expire on the 28th September according to an advertisement founded on your orders P. Dutton, we thought proper to issue a publication requiring such persons as might wish to avail themselves of the remaining Term to send in their applications within fourteen days.

Consn. 27th. July.

15. Six letters were in consequence addressed to our Secretary, Two only were applicable to the Ravensworth, the other four extended to the Ships of this Season the whole amount not exceeding 650 Maunds\* (200 of which belonged to Mr. Taylor to whom our permission had already been granted) we thought proper to authorize your Board of Trade to apportion all the Tenders in equal divisions upon the different Ships, excepting the Ravensworth as a means of occupying some part of the unappropriated Tonnage.

Cons. 27th July

16. Wishing to ascertain the exact quantity of private Indigo the produce of these Provinces, which Individuals might be inclined to send home in your Ships provided the Indulgence of former years

Consn. 27th. July. was repeated, we issued an Advertisement desiring their applications to be made within a limited period.

17. These as we expected on being confined to the produce of your own Provinces were very small, the whole not exceeding 100

Consn. 29th. Augt. Tons we have referred these also to your Board of Trade and have Authorized a Similar appropriation with the Silk.

18. A letter from your Accountant General recorded in the Consultation Noted in the margin contains a report of the exact amount of Bonds subscribed to your remittance of the 15th September 1785 to the latest period of advice.

Bengal .	17,77113-5.6.
Bombay	88,70,869-2-35.
Madras	Pag.[oda]s 6,68,638-31-41.

19. The dispatches from this Government under date the 21st. August 1786 will have informed you of the extent of supplies intended to have been appropriated last year to the other Presidencies, your Supra Cargoes in China, the Residency of Bencoolen, and the Island of St. Helena their Aggregated amount was Ct. Rs. 95,65,000.

20. In considering and deciding upon so important a subject for this Year, we were naturally led to an examination into the State of former remittances, and to draw a comparision between the disbursements actually made, or engaged for and the extent of our original intention.

21. You will be much surprized when we inform you, that the result of that enquiry produced a statement from our Accomptt. General proving, that the excess of our actual disbursements and the debts incurred were Ct. Rs. 1,24,27,431-8-6 and for your particular information with regard to this point we forward a copy of the Statement to which we allude, a separate number on the packet.

22. In fixing the general appropriation of our supplies for the current year we wished to have been guided by estimates from your other Presidencies, which we have repeatedly required to be sent round. These we received from Fort St. George in Consn. 6th. Augt. due time, but the amount therein stated to be expected from Bengal, falls infinitely short of the engagements actually made and the drafts for which we are already become responsible—These engagements amounted to[—]38,77,987-1-4 they are applicable to unavoidable disbursements, and so far from entertaining an idea of any diminution, we were rather inclined to suppose, that an addition for contingencies was to be admitted, under that impression we resolved to allot Ct. Rs. 45,000,00 for the supplies of Fort St. George between the 1st May 1787 and 30th April 1788 in which is included the Bombay debt to the King of Travancore now negotiating for payment thro' the Madras Government and every possible charge.

23. The usual documents from Bombay, which have influenced our decision upon former occasions, have not been received this year nor has any advice reached us, of a single draft, tho' many are already accepted.—Others we know will be drawn and experience has taught us that the annual exigencies, are not to be estimated at a smaller amount than Ct. Rs. 30,000,00 to provide completely for these charges, and indeed to make a distinct allowance for possible contingencies, we resolved to allot them in toto Ct. Rs. 35,00,000.

24. In stating these enormous supplies to Fort St. George and Bombay and in pointing out the excess of former engagements mostly on their account we do not mean to throw any imputation upon those Governments, we had become responsible for their Military arrears which could not be accurately estimated, and altho' the amount exceeded our expectations still it was necessary to be discharged. The present appropriations will, we are persuaded, both accomplish their complete relief, and enable them in future to make arrangements to furnish you within regular Investments to which we shall strenuously recommend their attention.

25. Your Supra Cargoes estimate their expected exigencies, including their deficiencies of last year at two Millions of Dollars. The difficulties, which this Government has long encountered prevented the entire completion of the proposed remittances paid into their Treasury by individuals composed a considerable part of them, the same difficulties continue at present, and we see no probability of removing or obviating them.

26. To appropriate a nominal supply without the prospect of realizing it would answer no end, even admitting that the state of our means was equal to the extent of their wants, we resolved therefore to allot only the sum of Current Rupees 15,00,000 for this service for which we shall use our utmost evdeavours, to make secure engagements, but in case opportunities should occur we have authorized them to draw upon us, at a favourable exchange subject to the same regulations with respect to the period of payment, as the demands upon our Treasury from other quarters.

27. To the Island of St. Helena we allotted 20,000 Rupees which will be expended in the annual supplies, and for the charges of Prince of Wales's Island the sum of current rupees 2,50,000 was estimated.

28. To the Residency of Bencoolen the sum of 3,50,000 is allotted, in this amount however is included drafts upon us already engaged for, and some Bengal Bonds to be granted in liquidation of their paper debt.

29. Your deputy Governor and Council at Fort Marlbro' requested a supply in specie equal to the purchase of 1500 Tons of Pepper but as this application was made before they were apprized of your intention to send them 22 Chests of Treasure in each of the Ships destined to call there this Season we deemed it unnecessary to comply.

30. The preceding allotments make in the aggregate Ct. Rs. 1,01,20,000 to be furnished from Bengal between the 1st May 1787 and 30th April 1788 independent of our internal expences and the provision of an Investment for Europe, It will no doubt add much to our current debt, and perhaps be as great an extension of the public credit of this Government as it can reasonably be expected to bear—The consideration however that these demands upon us, now the heavy charges occasioned by the amazing Military arrears of the other Presidencies are provided for, will not be repeated, and the conviction that our Treasury arrangements of 1785 have operated in a very great degree to the restoration of our credit, influence us in the avowal of our opinion that our apprehensions in this respect are but small.

31. A stronger instance in support of this argument need not be urged than the comparative low rate of discount which the certificates now bear, with what they bore at the same time last year, as so considerable a diminution cannot have proceeded wholly from the reduction which has taken place in the amount of certificates in circulation.

32. We are concerned to inform you that the reductions in the Fort Marlbro' Establishment, as directed in the letter to that Residency of the 21st March 1786 have been retarded from a failure in the arrival of our advices, on recurring to our records it appears that they were forwarded in duplicate by the way of Fort St. George, the cause of their failure we are endeavouring to ascertain, in the mean time we have transmitted other copies and have required every part of the resolutions to be carried into execution except the Military regulations, which arrangements, founded on subsequent orders received from your Hon'ble Court, have either altered or entirely done away.

33. In our separate Proceedings of the 22nd. December last you will observe that we highly disapproved the conduct of the Gentlemen of that Residency in drawing bills upon us, and your Supra Cargoes for sums of Money disbursed in the liquidation of their Paper currency, and that in order to relieve them from that burthen we authorized them to grant receipts to Individuals for whatever amount they might deposit in Paper, such receipts to be exchanged on presentation to us for Bengal Bonds.

34. In justification of the Steps we had disapproved they have since entered into a long explanation of the nature of their Paper

**Sebate. Proceeding** debt, which they hope, will be productive of a change  
**Consn. 13th. Augt.** in our sentiments but as we understand their letter  
 to you by the Kent is of a similar tendency we  
 decline giving any further opinion.

35. Our proposal to grant Bengal Bonds, which in fact was admitting them to a participation in the only remittance that you have authorized for some years, They considered a hardship, and tho' in some few instances individuals have availed themselves of the transfer most of their Creditors as they inform us, have requested to continue their demands under their own immediate management at Fort Marlbro' until measures less grievous can be adopted for their discharge to export specie which would have afforded grounds of complaint to more extensive Creditors and 'indeed would have subjected us to many inconveniencies, we did not think an adviseable measure, we had therefore no other alternative, than to allow them to go on in their present state, under the Assurance that our attention to the Company's Creditors in all quarters had been the same, and in continuing that line of conduct, we hoped ultimately to remove every embarrassment and to establish general satisfaction.

36. You will receive a number in the Packet copy of a letter addressed to us by Mr. George Smith (but intended for your consideration) containing several propositions for sup-  
**Consn. 6th. Augt.** plying your Treasury at Canton, on this subject we think it necessary to observe that we transmit it more from a motive of attention to Mr. Smith's request than from any favourable opinion of his plan.

37. Our late Secretary Mr. William Bruere, under a supposition that your Supra Cargoes at China had made some representation to your Hon'ble Court respecting the late arrival of  
**Consn. 6th Augt.** a bill drawn by himself in favor of the Company, has addressed a letter to us giving a circumstantial account of the transaction, and at his request we forward a copy thereof, and of the vouchers which accompanied it for your information, a separate number in this packet.

38. You will receive by this conveyance dispatches from the President & Council at Fort St. George. The Gentlemen at Madras  
**Consn. 6th Aug.** availed themselves of this opportunity to address you, in consequence of our intimation, similar intimation was sent in due time to Bombay, and we still hope their advices will arrive.

39. In our letter of the 27th ultimo we acquainted you with the two modes pointed out by our Advocate General on compliance with  
**Consn. 27th. July** either of which he was of opinion our permission for Mr. Henchman to return to England in the Ravensworth might be confirmed. These of course were communicated to him immediately.

40. Our Consultation noted in the margin contains his reply in  
 Consn. 6th. Augt. which he expresses his full acquiescence in the  
 latter mode, and your Advocate General on being  
 consulted, declared it sufficiently full and explicit.

41. The necessary Covenant and security Bonds were accordingly  
 ordered to be prepared and executed in Triplicate the Security still  
 continuing at the former specified amount vizt. Sa.  
 9th. [Aug.] Rs. 10,000 as we understand that the present  
 arrangement had not in any respect altered the case.

42. One copy of the deed of Covenant and of the security Bond  
 is forwarded in the Ravensworth. The second will be transmitted by  
 the first Chartered Ship of this Season and the third  
 Do. 13th Do. is deposited in our Treasury. Mr. Henchman on exe-  
 cuting these Deeds was permitted to embark in the  
 Ravensworth, a letter has since been received from him regarding his  
 return to your service with his Rank, this letter for your particular  
 consideration is sent a number in the packet.

43. On the 17th Instant we received a letter from the Company's  
 attorney notifying that the bill in Equity against Messrs. Barton,  
 Rider, Sumner, and Keighly, was filed in the Supreme Court on the  
 13th we directed a copy of this bill to be immediately prepared, but  
 as we understand it is exceedingly voluminous we fear it cannot be  
 got ready in time to attend you by this conveyance.

44. Mr. Henry Ramus having been removed from his station by  
 our alterations lately adopted in the Revenue line, has requested and  
 obtained our permission to return to England upon  
 6th leave of absence for three years without prejudice to  
 his Rank in your Service, Mr. Ramus has taken his passage on board  
 the Ravensworth.

45. We think it necessary to apprise you that sundry Trees and  
 Plants under direction to his Majesty, are forwarded in the  
 Ravensworth, These Trees and Plants were selected and packed up  
 by Colonel Kyd, in consequence of an order from  
 Consn. 17th. Augt. Lord Cornwallis a requisition having been made to  
 his Lordship for them thro' Sir George Young for the  
 purpose of furnishing a Botanical Garden established on the Island of  
 St. Vincent's, Captain Roddam has received such instructions as  
 appeared to Colonel Kyd necessary for their preservation.

46. Mr. Alexander Burrowes fourth Officer of the Lansdown is  
 described as fourth Officer of the Ravensworth in some Certificates  
 furnished him by your Board of Trade on account of  
 Consn. 17th Augt. his privilege Shipped by our indulgence last Year,  
 we beg leave to correct the mistake.

47. We send you a number in the packet copy of a report from the Agent for Stationary upon that Article, as imported in the Ships Consn. 29th. Augt. Atlas, Busbridge and Henry Dundas, and the musters alluded to are in the Box apart.

48. The Amount of the Ravensworth Cargoe as per Invoice is Ct. Rs. 4,58,510.

49. The State of the Treasury this day is as follows\*.

Ready money

General Bank Notes Sa. Rs. 1,89,492-0-0 . . . .	219,810 11 6
Gold Mohurs 21,949-0-12. . . . .	4,07,387 5 9
Siccas 4955-5-9 . . . . .	5748 3 6
Copper Coin 3,41,279 . . . . .	12,733 13 10
Current Rupees . . . . .	6,45,680 2 7
Bills Receivable Lucknow Sa. Rs. . . . .	10,13,041 7 6
Balance account deposits . . . . .	5,01,436 2 10
Balance Accumtamt General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918 3 3
Balance of the old Bonded Debt on which Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117 0 8
New Bonded Debt at 8 P Cent per annum . . . . .	1,39,23,077 11 8
New Bonded Debt account Madras Military Arrears . . . . .	2,80,5434 1 6
New Bonded Debt account Bombay Military Arrears . . . . .	17,05706 5 5
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000 0 0
Current Rupees . . . . .	1,9117,689 6 9

We have the honor to be

Ft. William  
1st Sepr. 87.

P. S.

We have this day received a letter from Captain Kyd who returned some days ago from Pinang accompanying a Plan of that Island and a Memoir respecting it, and the other objects which were recommended to his enquiry. The Plan and a copy of the Memoir are forwarded in the packet for your information but as they came before us whilst our time was fully engaged in the immediate business of the dispatch we have not had leisure to peruse them, or to

\*After the postscript in the original draft.

form any opinion upon them.

Fort William  
the 14 Sepr. 87.

[Endorsement]

Pub. 1787 Dept.

Draft of Genl. Letter to the Honble the Court of Directors

Dated 14th Sepr.

Pr. Ravensworth the Ship

23

## LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1787

*Officers guilty of corruption in connection with raw silk contracts dismissed.*

**TO** the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para 1. Our letter of the 1st Instant acquainted you with the arrival of the Minerva and the reasons which obliged us to postpone the consideration of your orders under date the 27th March also with our intention to take them up, and reply to them in a separate letter, if the detention or any delay of the Ravensworth would admit.

2. We are now happy to inform you that as those dispatches were in great forwardness indeed nearly completed at the latter end of the last Month, we proceeded to consider them with attention on the 29th and to pass our resolutions in the usual mode upon the different Paragraphs progressively, as will appear from a perusal of our Separate Consultation of that Day, which for your more immediate information we forward a number in the packet.

3. Your directions with respect to Servants who have returned to England upon the pension or full pay shall be strictly attended to, this point you will observe on a reference to our Proceedings upon contingent bills of the 27th July last, was previously decided upon by us, in the mode you suggest so far as the Civil Servants were concerned.

4. The reduction in the Salary of the Sub Accountant General and in the Establishments to the Civil Pay Master and Post Master General's Offices will take place from the first Instant of which period the additional allowances to the Chaplains will commence, the Allowance to the Surgeon at Benares will be discontinued from the 1st of October.

Septe. Proceedgs.  
Consn. 29th August.

5. The Dawk bearers are not employed at this time of the Year, this subject we mean hereafter to enquire into, for which purpose an account of the expences attending the establishment during the last Season and of the particulars and amount of remissions to those who were allowed to travel free, is preparing the result of our arrangements will be mentioned in a future dispatch.

6. We have already published an advertisement extending the period for receiving subscriptions to the remittance, which you have opened for the Bond debt of India, and we have endeavoured to inculcate the idea of it's advantages, and ample security.

7. Our last advices inform you of the amount for which bills have been granted on account of each presidency. The Bombay bills you will observe tho' the Interest of those Bonds was greater, very considerably exceed the Bengal, amongst other causes, which may have occasioned this difference one is that the demands upon you on this Side of India are the property of Native[s] to whom the remittance is no object whilst at Bombay your Creditors were Chiefly Europeans.

8. The enquiry which you have ordered into the expenditure and purchases of Stationary in the Commercial and General Departments for some years past, shall be carried on and future Arrangements will be adopted when these enquiries come under consideration, in the mean time, we have prohibited any purchases of that Article, and have directed the Board of Trade to apply for such quantities as they may require immediately to us, intending to supply them from the Stores imported this year.

9. The secret Military and Revenue orders will be attended to in those departments, & the commercial will be considered and enforced by the Board of Trade.

10. Our letter of the 10th January last and the papers accompanying will have long since informed you of the connection we have entered into with the General Bank. The loan of 20,00,000 Ct. Rs. was completed at the period prescribed and appropriated as originally intended, in the present state of our Treasury conformably to the Regulations in force, this debt cannot with Justice be discharged, until the certificates deposited as a collateral security stand next for payment upon the Register.

11. Your Instructions which Relate to Banks in general which were written before you could possibly be apprized of the nature of our engagements, are therefore suspended for the present, but the Directors of this Company have been warned, that it is our Intention to dissolve [sic] the connection within eight days after payment of the

loan received from them; in case you should confirm these orders after having considered the reference above alluded to.

12. Messrs Barton, Rider, Bateman, Sumner, Rooke and Keighly have been informed of your resolutions and stand dismissed your Service from the day your advices were received vizt. 14th ultimo, and your Advocate General has been furnished with their respective Covenants and directed to make the Necessary Preparations for commencing the prosecutions for breach of them without delay.

13. To enable us to conduct the enquiry which you have ordered into the manner in which the Silk Contract with Messrs. Taylor, Speke, Collinson Henchman, Grant, Crommelin and Pote were entered into we have required the Board of Trade to prepare a report of all the Contracts for Raw Silk which have been made from the year 1774 to the present time to furnish copies of the proceedings of the late Board of Trade preparatory to and consequent on their entering into such contracts, with a comparative progressive statement of the prices paid.

14. You will be duly advised of our future proceedings upon this subject and of such other measures, as we may deem it necessary to adopt, either resulting from our own deliberations or as suggested by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to whom we have already communicated the extent of our resolutions in order to have the benefit of his Lordship's opinion upon them.

15. The Statement of our Treasury this day is as follows.

Ready Money . . . . .	4,59,375	8	3
General Bank Notes Sa. Rs. 59,442-0-0 . . . . .	68,952	11	6
Current Rupees . . . . .	5,28,328	3	9
Bills Receivable Lucknow Sa Rs. . . . .	10,13,041	7	6
Balance account deposit . . . . .	5,01,436	2	10
Balance Accompanyant General to the Mayor's Court . . . . .	1,16,918	3	3
Balance of the old bonded debt on which the Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement . . . . .	45,117	0	8
New bonded debt at 8 P Cent . . . . .	1,42,18,556	12	10
Do. Do. account Madras Military Arrears . . . . .	28,05,434	1	8
Do. Do. Do. Bombay Do. . . . .	17,05,706	5	5
4 P Cent Remittance Loan . . . . .	20,000	0	0
	204,26,210	2	9

Fort William

We have the honor to be & ca.

(Signed) Charles Stuart

John Shore

P.S.

We send you a number in this packet copy of a letter addressed to us by Mr. Charles Grant accompanying a declaration which he judged it necessary to make before us upon Oath, regarding his conduct as a Contractor as his name was mentioned in the list of those supposed to have been concerned in collusive practices with the late Board of Trade.

In justice of Mr. Charles Grant we think it our duty to remark that the general tenor of his conduct as a servant of the Company as far as it has ever come to our knowledge either thro' the medium of public report or officially would have precluded any suspicion of collusion in any of the Contracts or Engagements entered into between him and the Company, and we are happy on the occasion to find our opinion so substantially verified by this voluntary declaration under the solemn sanction of an oath.

A letter to your address from Mr. James English Keighly, in consequence of the notification to him of your resolution to dismiss him the Company's service is also forwarded a number in the packet.

Fort William

(Signed) Charles Stuart  
the 14th September 1787 [Per Ravensworth] John Shore

24

## LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1787

*Overloading of the Ravensworth—dispatch of plants for botanical gardens at St. Vincent Island postponed.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para 1. Since our general dispatches of the 14th instant were closed, we have received a letter from the Board of Trade exhibiting a succinct, and connected narrative of the most important commercial measures of the present year, with their reasons, and effects in continuation of which they have also proceeded to reply to various enquiries on commercial point ordered in your general letters of the 12th April and 21st July 1786.

2. This letter, and the papers accompanying which are entered at length in a separate list, we now send, and beg leave to recommend them\* to your particular and serious consideration as we are

fully persuaded that the elucidation of the various subjects They contain in the regular order, and divisions in which they are treated will afford the most satisfactory information and establish a thorough conviction, that the management of this branch of your affairs, is faithfully attended to, and gradually approaching to that degree of regularity and exactness, which you are so anxious to attain.

3. In this place we think it necessary to remark, that an unavoidable delay has happened in preparing the account (No. 7) of the comparative price of Silk since the year 1771 referred to in the before mentioned letter and that the transmission of it is deferred till the next dispatch.

4. Having had reason to remark from various reports that have reached us that the Ravensworth was uncommonly deeply laden we thought proper to direct an examination into the state of her to be made by Captains Thornhill, Price, Dance, and Williams and to require their opinion whether she was fit for undertaking a Voyage to Europe in her present condition and at this season of the year.

5. These Gentlemen repaired on board immediately and reported unanimously after examination into the state and condition of the Ship that "She swam too deep in the Water to proceed to Sea without danger should she meet with bad weather before she gets clear out of the Bay of Bengal a circumstance much to be apprehended at this Season of the year", and they recommend[ed] that 800 Bags of Salt Petre should be taken out.

6. Our orders were immediately issued to the Board of Trade to effect that reduction in the Cargoe of the Ravensworth, and the most expeditious mode of doing it (while she is proceeding down the River) was pointed out, This circumstance we have judged it necessary to mention, that you may be apprized in due time, of the additional deduction for inadequate Tonnage which you are entitled to, when the accounts are adjusted with the owners.

7. Captain Roddam having represented that the Ravensworth has not the conveniencies necessary for the preservation of the plants intended for the Botanical Garden established on the Island of St. Vincent of which you were advised in our letter of the 1st instant, They are postponed to a future dispatch.

Fort William

the 18th September 1787

[Per Ravensworth]

We have the honor to be & ca.

(Signed) Charles Stuart

John Shore

## LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1787

*Capt. Roddam's protest wholly unfounded.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Enclosed we have the honor to send you copy of a protest  
Pub. Dept. delivered to us this day by Captain Roddam.

2. As the Vessel is now in charge of the Pilot under dispatch, we have not time to make the references necessary to enable us to reply so particularly as we could wish to the terms of his protest, we are therefore under the necessity of informing your Hon'ble Court only, that we have no doubt of proving to your entire satisfaction that on every other ground but that of the dispatch of the Ship before the Charter Party time, the protest is wholly without foundation; that full and sufficient time was afforded Captain Roddam for taking in his lading and stowing it in a proper Manner; that substantial notice was given to him to prepare for the Voyage; and that the taking out the 800 Bags of Salt Petre was a measure indispensibly necessary to the security of the remaining Cargoe, and of the Vessel itself.

3. We also beg leave further to remark that a notification was made to Captain Roddam as early as the 22d. January of our instructions to dispatch him to Europe on the 3d. of August following; that for this purpose he was required to return to this Port from his Bencoolen Voyage early in June, and that afterwards he was permitted to call at Madras at his own request on his return from Bencoolen, on express condition that he arrived [in] time enough to be dispatched early in August.

4. The protest is dated 22d. September though delivered only this day; the intermediate delay appears to us to have been designed by Captain Roddam, to prevent our communication of those explanations required to invalidate the terms of it.

We have the honor to be & ca.

(Signed) Charles Stuart

John Shore

Fort William

the 29th September

1787.

[Per Ravensworth]

Exd. A Malcom[?]

34—1NAI/70

## LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1787

*Condition of the European Resiments in India very unsatisfactory—disordered state of the finances and government of Oudh—commercial treaty with Oudh being finalised—charge of Farrukhabad given up—improvement in the administration of Benares.*

**T**HE Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Having requested that none of the Chartered Ships may be detained for my arrival at the Presidency, after they are ready to be dispatched, I have thought it my duty to inform you from hence, that my tour to visit the upper Provinces and the different stations of the Army is now nearly accomplished.

2. It will no doubt give you pleasure to know that the general appearance of the Native Troops, both with respect to quality of men, and to discipline, and the proofs of zeal and attention that I have observed amongst many of the Officers of this Army have given me the highest satisfaction; But I am sorry to say that upon inspection, I found your European Regiments in a much worse condition than from all representations of them, I had ever imagined. I have already in former dispatches, expressed myself with so much earnestness upon this subject, that nothing but a conviction of its importance, would now induce me to hazard being thought importunate upon it, by your Hon'ble Court. However as I am clear in opinion that a respectable body of well disciplined and serviceable Europeans, is indispensibly necessary for the security of your own possessions, and for the maintenance of the national honor in India, I should consider myself as guilty of betraying the trust that has been reposed in me, if I did not upon this occasion, declare in the most explicit terms that your European Regiments on this establishment are in general in the most wretched condition, and that I doubt whether I could in the most pressing emergency form, from the whole of them, one complete battalion of serviceable Soldiers. The returns give you the numbers only without a description of the men. I saw with real concern that by far the greatest proportion of those that compose them consists of Men, worn out by long service, intemperance, or infirmities; and of others so diminutive in size as to be totally unequal to the duties of the field, or of foreigners, upon whose service in war, no dependance could be placed. I shall take an early opportunity after my inspections are completed, to transmit Returns to you under the above heads, and I shall at the same time give you my sentiments concerning the European Invalids which now constitute an article of great expense, and far from adding to our strength are in reality a very distressing incumbrance to this establishment. As I look upon myself as bound in the proper discharge of my Military duty to state every object to your consideration, in which the public honour or interest appears to be concerned,

I am obliged to declare that although there is much substantial good in the late regulations for your military establishments, and I have the highest respect for the character and abilities of the principal framer of them, yet in my opinion there is a necessity for your giving a discretionary latitude to your Governments abroad to alter the establishment of Battalions from 8 to 10 Companies, whenever they may think it expedient. This alteration would not only be more economical, from the saving it would make in Field and staff Officers, in an equal number of troops. But the Regiments by the adoption of it would be better calculated for all kinds of Field Service; For, as the Grenadier Companies will generally be detached, the remaining six Companies will probably in a short time be reduced by the common casualties and contingencies of a campaign, to so small a number of men, as to render them extremely unequal to the many duties that must be expected from a Battalion.

3. I was received at Allahabad and attended to Lucknow by the Vizier and his Ministers, with every mark of friendship and respect. I cannot however express how much I was concerned, during my short residence at his Capital, and my progress thro' his dominions, to be witness of the disordered state of his finances and Government, and of the desolated appearance of the Country; The Evils were too alarming to admit of palliation, and I thought it my duty to exhort him in the most friendly manner to endeavour to apply effectual remedies to them. He began with urging as apologies, that whilst he was not certain of the extent of our demands upon him, he had no real interest in being economical in his expenses; and that while we interfered in the internal management of his affairs, his own authority and that of his Ministers, were despised by his own subjects. It would have been useless to discuss these topics with him but while I repeated my former declarations of our being determined to give no grounds in future for similar complaints, he gave me the strongest assurances of his being resolved to apply himself earnestly to the encouragement of agriculture and to endeavour to revive the commerce of his Country. And in order to enable him to be punctual in his pecuniary engagements with us, and otherwise to give ease to his finances, he likewise promised, not only to disband a large number of his own useless rabble of troops, but also to retrench a great many of his other superfluous articles of expenditure. I think it proper to say that my principal dependance for the performance of those promises, rests upon similar assurances from the efficient Minister Hyder Beg Khan<sup>1</sup>, who is undoubtedly the ablest man employed by the Vizier, and who, there is reason to expect will, from considerations of personal interest and safety, be at great pains to avoid giving just cause of complaint to this Government. He knows in particular, that it is to him I look for the punctual discharge of our annual subsidy of fifty lacs, and tho' I am sensible that for some time to come there may frequently be difficulties I trust that they will never more fall considerably into balance, as I am persuaded of their anxiety to avoid it.

4. Several commercial arrangements have been under consideration, which, having principally for their foundation the reduction of some duties, and the fixing of the extent of all public imposts, as

well as giving full protection to all traders and merchants, will I am convinced contribute greatly to promote the mutual advantage of both Countries. As the consequences of the influence of our authority in the commercial affairs of Oude, have been extremely pernicious, I have been desirous that in discussing those subjects with Hyder Beg, each point should be deliberately examined, and that he should not think himself under the necessity of giving his acquiescence unless convinced of it's utility to the interests of the Vizier or of his subjects. For that purpose I made use of Mr. Barlow, who, by his manners and address, was peculiarly well Qualified to gain his confidence; and who had previously given me the most convincing proofs of ability, by his masterly investigations and reports on the state of commerce of Oude and Benares. As I think it may command the more precision on the side of the Vizier, in the observance of the different articles that may be settled, it has been proposed that this agreement shall be in the form of a commercial treaty, and as most of the heads are already adjusted, I hope that it will soon be finally concluded.

5. The distress and oppression that the commerce of Oude has hitherto suffered by the means which were employed in procuring our investment in that Country, are clear, and very justly described in Mr. Barlow's report. We have therefore, and without giving up any advantage of our own, granted a most substantial favour in relinquishing it. I have likewise had it in my power by attentive enquiries upon the spot, to make some additions to the regulations for military Bazars that had been already published, which, without interfering in the smallest degree with the real conveniences of the troops, have, I trust, effectually removed all grounds for future complaints from the Country upon that subject, and for which the Vizier and his Ministers have expressed the highest gratitude.

6. I have had peculiar satisfaction in disengaging this Government in an honorable manner from all charge and responsibility in the management of the Country of Furruckabad.

7. I shall avoid making any remarks upon the original grounds, or supposed right, which induced us to interfere in the detail of the Affairs of that unfortunate Country, and shall only say, that I am afraid that it has not only done us no credit in Hindostan, But that the imperfect manner in which we did or could interfere, could hardly fail of being attended with the consequences that we have experienced; that of giving constant disgust and dissatisfaction to the Vizier, and to Mozufffer Jung, without producing a shadow of benefit or relief to the body of the Inhabitants. It gave me great pleasure to receive assurances both verbally and in writing from Mozufffer Jung, that he is perfectly satisfied with the settlement of the tribute and with the treatment that he has met with from the Vizier; pensions are secured and to be paid through us to those who had any particular claim to our protection, I mean the Begum<sup>2</sup>; (who by her own choice remains at Furruckabad) Dil Dileer Khan<sup>3</sup>, and the Dewan, Deep Chund<sup>4</sup>; and as in my opinion there is hardly a possibility of any good arising from our future interference, and almost, a certainty of much discredit, I confess I am happy that now

we are not called upon to take any further concern about that Country, than about any other ill governed district of His Excellency's dominions.

8. Upon my return I saw with singular pleasure that many great benefits had already arisen from the alteration in the system of the management of Benares; and the disinterested and judicious conduct of Mr. Duncan, the Resident, claimed my warmest approbation. From the short trial that has been made of the Rajah there seems to be great reason to believe that under a proper inspection, he will prove sufficiently qualified to conduct his part of the business of the Zemindarry, without the assistance of a Naib; and he has already adopted, or acquiesced with great cheerfulness, in several measures that cannot fail of promoting the happiness of his people, and the general prosperity of the Country. Under a persuasion that it will tend ultimately to his advantage, he readily agreed to the abolition of the Rhadarry, and other duties which were represented as obstructions to Commerce, even without requiring any deduction, tho' the temporary diminution of his revenue will be considerable. He has also agreed that it shall be an established rule in the management of his country to let it at a moderate rent to men of character and substance, and in portions not exceeding if possible an annual rent of two or three lacs of Rupees, which, with more attention than has been generally paid to the regular administration of justice, will relieve the body of the inhabitants from many cruel oppressions to which they have been frequently subject, under a different system. Mr. Duncan is from his disposition and abilities eminently qualified both to methodize and to superintend the execution of this plan and I have not the smallest doubt of the regular payment of the Commissary's Revenues, or of the ease and prosperity of the Country, under the operation of it.

9. You will learn with satisfaction that your orders for next year's investment will be very completely executed, and I am persuaded that you will approve of our having ordered the provision of it to commence at a much more early period than has hitherto been the practice in this Government. Although the late extraordinary inundations in some of the districts will occasion a considerable loss this season in our revenues, yet I have to doubt of our Funds proving equal to all our estimated disbursements, and the good state of the public credit enables us to apply them with advantage in all our public transactions.

10. In the present state of our Affairs I thought it my duty to recommend to the Board to direct that your orders dated 21st September 1785 for completing the Bombay Military establishment, should now, as far as practicable, be carried into execution; And as I considered it as an addition indispensibly necessary for this Army, I recommended also a small augmentation to the two Rosallahas of Cavalry which were already on the Establishment. The proceedings of the Board which will be transmitted by this opportunity will contain full information on the above and all other subjects that have come before them since the dispatch of the Ravensworth.

11. I shall conclude with assuring you that during my absence from the Presidency, there has not only been the most unreserved

and almost daily communication between me and the other members of Government, but that the decision upon all public points that have been under consideration, having either been concerted between us, or when known to each other have met with the most perfect harmony and co-incidence of sentiment upon them.

I have the honor to be with great respect

HONBLE. SIRS

Your most obedient Most humble Servant

On the Ganges

Cornwallis

November 16, 1787.

(Endorsed :—)

On the Ganges

16 Novr. 1787—

Letter from Earl Cornwallis

to the Court of Directors

(No. 8)

Recd. Per Busbridge.

29 April 88.

[Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 26, pp. 321—340]

27

## LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1787

*Efforts to fill up unoccupied tonnage with private goods—proposal to purchase cloth from Benares—investment at Dacca—debt owing to Travancore Maharaja to be paid off in specie by instalment—Champion's translation of Firdausi's Shah-Namah and Gladwin's translation of 'Institutes of Timur' purchased—principles underlying revenue settlement of 1787—allowance to Raja Kalyan Singh, son of Raja Shitab Rai, reduced—amanat daftar in Bihar re-established—revenue demands suspended owing to un-precedented floods in East Bengal—Raja of Benares invested with management of his zamindari—presents for Raja of Assam—Burdwan Rani's claim to management of deorhi mahals. European trees for Botanical Gardens near Calcutta.*

**T**O the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies at their House in Leadenhall Street London.

Honorable Sirs.

1. Your Ship Busbridge being under orders to proceed to Europe, we transmit to you by this Conveyance a Narrative of our

Proceedings in our Military Public and Revenue Departments\* since the Dispatch of the Ravensworth and as the Officers in which they are held are now under one Charge, We have determined to communicate our Advices to you from the several Departments in our General Letter.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Public Department

48. Our last dispatches from this Department were forwarded dated 29th July to you by the Ravensworth. That Ship was quitted 1st, 7th & 29th by her Pilot on the 7th October and took her final Septr. Departure from Fort St. George on the 22nd of the Consn. 16th Novr. same Month.

49. We have now the honor to transmit Duplicates of those Letters and a Continuation of our Proceedings for the Months of August, September, October, and November with their Index.

50. The Thetis, which you will observe by our Advices of the 1st September was the first Ship in Rotation for Dispatch to Europe, is detained for a few days, to repair the loss of her Main Mast, and some other damages of less Consequence which she suffered in a severe Storm on the 2nd Instant.

51. The Report made from the Master Attendants Office of the Consn. 20th Novr. Effects of the Gale on this and your other Ships is sent a number in the Packet.

52. We have already intimated to you our intention to fill up the unoccupied Tonnage of the Companys Ships with private Goods. The publication of this Licence was delayed for some time  
 Vide Genl. Letter from an Apprehension that it might affect the  
 P. Ravensworth Deliveries of your Investment, and that we might  
 1st September. receive certain Accounts from Fort St. George of the exact Tonnage that would be employed at that Presidency.

53. Before the Arrival of the Minerva We had estimated one Cargo and an half as the amount of that Tonnage and your permission given to the President in Council to draw upon you for £.S. 1,50,000 afforded some reason to believe that one Cargo and an half more might be provided, making in the whole three full Cargoes Upon this Calculation seven Ships would be left to be laden in Bengal and a Provision of 80 Lacs had been made, allowing 12 Lacs for each Ship which we  
 Consn. 8th Octor. deem full as much as ought to be sent at one risque a balance then remained of 4 Lacs exclusive of the difference of Tonnage at which the Snips are rated, and of course the quantity to be occupied by an Investment of 12 Lacs As the Ships of this season are very large we estimated this difference at 150 Tons for each making altogether 1,050 Tons and this we thought a sufficient ground for receiving private Goods upon Freight.

54. The Advices we desired from Fort St. George not being received and the advance of the Season having done away the Objection already Stated to a publication of your orders on  
 Consn. 8th Octor. account of the Deliveries of your Investment, which

were in a fair train, we were induced to Advertize for tenders for the unoccupied Tonnage, and in order that the private Goods might be duly apportioned among all the Ships of the Season, We limited the delivery of applications to a short period.

55. They were read on the 8th Ultimo, and referred to your Board of Trade with directions to appropriate the whole according to our original declaration except a proposal from Mr. George Smith for Tea, which we did not consider ourselves at liberty to admit.

56. These tenders did not answer our expectations with respect to their Amount for we judged upon Cursory view of them that the unoccupied Tonnage would not be nearly completed even according to the calculation upon which we published our intentions and Subsequent advices from Fort St. George give no reason to suppose that the Investment to be provided on the Coast would not exceed a Cargo and a half—We have been since informed that it would not exceed two half Cargoes one of which will be ready in January the other in March.

57. The intelligence first obtained that only one Cargo and an half could be provided on the Coast induced [sic] us to fix the destination of the Britannia immediately for Europe. That Ship will now proceed with a full Cargo of Coast Goods which will be ready in January, and a latter Ship will be allotted for the remaining half Cargo to be delivered in March.

58. We directed the Board of Trade to furnish us with a Statement of the exact Quantity of the Tonnage that would remain unoccupied after providing for the Tenders made by Individuals; but as this could not be immediately furnished, and as the season was considerably advanced, we have advertized for more to be sent on or before the 27th of this Month.

59. Your Ship has been sent to Fort St. George with Military Stores, and some Articles indented for from that Presidency, and is to return to take her Europe Cargo from Bengal.

60. We were aware that this Service might have been performed by the Dundas, and she is to proceed with an half Cargo only to Fort St. George but as the Company would incur no additional expence by our sending the Minerva, her Demhurrage[sic] being to be paid at any rate and as a Quantity of Gunpowder was among the Stores to be sent to Madras which in case of any Accident to the Ship would endanger the half Cargo which the Dundas would take it appeared more adviseable to order another Ship to the Coast and we chose the last Ship of the Season.

61. The advantages attending an early commencement of providing the Investment were too evident to escape our observation.

62. Our Opinion in this point was not only confirmed by the Board of Trade but in some degree anticipated by their measures. The Board of Trade submitted to us a calculation for the Investment of 1788—formed on your Orders Per Minerva as far as the Cloth Provision was concerned, and on your former Consn. 25th October. Commands with respect to the other Articles, and their recommendation was supported by substantial reasons to admit of its commencement on the 1st of January 1788 and the whole to be completed within that year.

63. In determining the amount to be appropriated a reference to our resources was necessary, and these having been fully considered the sum of 90,00,000 tho' an excess of the estimated amount stated in the Account of probable Receipts and Disbursements was fixed for your Investment of 1788. The Provision by Agency is computed at 65 & that by Contract at 25 Lacs. The former sum is to be advanced as far as 40 Lacs in Cash and the remaining 25 by the Discount of Certificates which tho' entered upon the General Register immediately will not be disposed of till May. The 25 Lacs for Contract are to be paid in Certificates at the periods Stipulated for making Advances.

64. Your Honorable Court will be pleased to observe that this arrangement enlarges the Provision by Agency. Experience amply proved the Advantages arising from this mode, and we have no doubt, that under the present management, They will greatly increase.

65. The particular Allotments of the various Articles composing your Investment of 1788 and the amount of each as far as they can be settled at present will appear in our Consultations noted in the Margin. The Advertisement for proposals of Contract differs very little from that published last Year.

66. Your orders Pr. Minerva directing notice to be inserted in the Advertisement for future Contracts that Natives as well as others will be bound thereby from supplying Foreigners, did not escape our Observation We however have dispensed with it for the present from an Opinion that it may be attended with inconvenience, and with Complaints from the Foreign Settlements, while the object will be equally secured by inserting such Clause in the Contracts without publishing the intention of doing so; and we even wish it may be left to our discretion to dispense with this Clause if we should judge it necessary.

67. The Objections which occur'd last year to the Provision of Owde Cloths still subsisting We judged it not improbable that the deficiency might in some degree be made up from Cloths provided in the District of Benares, and we have accordingly determined to make the experiment thro' the medium of Engagements with Native Merchants.

68. Your Resident at Benares has been furnished with instructions on this subject and if any Contracts are settled in consequence you will be fully informed of the particulars. In the mean time we think it necessary to apprise you that we have declared our intention not to interfere with

Cons. 16th Novr.

our support to enable the parties to complete their Engagements or to afford them any other Assistance beyond that which justice to Merchants in General Warrants In Short the idea of Influence is discouraged & disavowed.

69. In the Consultation noted in the Margin you will observe two Questions submitted to us by the Board of Trade in consequence of some delays which had occurred in loading the Thetis and Busbridge,  
 Cons. 29th Octr. the first as to the necessity of removing the Ships  
 Consn. 5th Nov. from Diamond Harbour to Cox or Saugur Islands  
 or Kedgerie to complete their Cargoes the second  
 as to the quantity of Goods to be stowed in each Sloop.

70. The Agent for loading the Ships was of opinion that their Cargoes might be completed at Kedgerie a circumstance which if practicable, would be more convenient and less expensive but as this was a point in which the risk of a large property was involved, your Board of Trade suggested to us the propriety of an Application to the Master Attendant for his precise and responsible opinion upon it and we called for it.

71. The Master Attendant after consulting with the Pilots reported to us that altho' there was sufficient depth of Water in Kedgerie Roads it was too narrow for the management of your Ships He instanced an Accident which happened last year to a Country Vessel from that circumstance in defiance of every possible effort and he recommended that your Ships should proceed to Saugar in preference. In this measure we accordingly Acquiesced.

72. With respect to the Stowage in Sloops, it appeared that an order of the Court of Directors of 1742 (which was traced only in the Bengal Records of the Export Warehouse) prohibited more than the Value of one Lac to be laden in any Vessel at one time, a Circumstance which if attended to would occasion great delays and meet objections from the Contractors for Sloops as that amount is inadequate to their Burthen.

73. The order being of so old a date not having been repeated during the Various arrangements of your Concerns, We did not consider it to operate against the reasons stated, and therefore authorized the Board of Trade to dispense with it, leaving it to the discretion of the Export Ware house Keeper to lade such quantities of Goods in each Sloop as from his knowledge of the Security of those Vessels —He might judge them equal to.

74. In our Letter of the 27th July you were informed of Mr. Kennaway's Deputation to Dacca, the Objects of it, and the Suspension of Mr. Grueber's Authority during its Continuance.

75. Mr. Kennaways first Report the Proceedings of the Board of Trade in consequence & our Opinion upon both will appear in our  
 Cons. 25th Sепr. Consultations of the 25th September and 8th  
 8th Octer. October We beg leave to refer them to your particular notice The measures adopted for securing the  
 Investment of the present year on the lowest practicable terms, the  
 arrangements established with regard to the Ware House Charges and

other matters fully prove the necessity of Mr. Kennaway's Deputation, and shew the ability with which the duties of it have been discharged.

76. A Censure upon the conduct of Mr. Grueber is obviously implied by this Opinion, as it was undoubtedly in his power to have effected the same Arrangements with superior advantage to Mr. Kennaway But some Allowance is to be made on Account of Ill Health which Mr. Grueber suffered precluding him from making the requisite exertions This excuse was however by no means sufficient to induce us to risk any further impediment to the Investm't by a re-establishment of Mr. Grueber in Authority tho' we thought proper to leave his final removal from the Station in suspense until the Governor Generals return to the Presidency Mr. Grueber has since obtained our permission to relinquish his Office altogether and to return to Europe for the recovery of his health and Mr. Bebb who was appointed to the temporary Charge of your Commercial Interests at Dacca after Mr. Kennaway left it, has been confirmed in the Residency upon Mr. Grueber's resignation.

77. Mr. Kennaway's second report extending to the Outstanding Balances in that Quarter & the Resolutions of the Board of Trade upon it are recorded in our Proceedings of the 16th October We are much concerned to remark that the existence of these balances must in a great measure be attributed to the fraudulent Abuses which prevailed in the management of the Dacca Investment while it was under the Charge of Mr. Cottrell and we entirely agree with the Board of Trade that they may be claimed by the Company from his Estate—We enclose a Statement of the balances.

78. Measures are pursuing to furnish you with materials to establish the validity of your Right, and to prosecute your claims Upon his Assistant Mr. Potenger who returned to England last year They shall be forwarded by the earliest Conveyance after they are procured.

79. We beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings for information that may enable you to recover a demand on Mr. Consn. 23rd July Dacres in the principal sum of Crs. 4,500 with Interest from the 31st October 1783—This sum as stated to us by your Board of Trade is the amount of a Certificate issued on account the business of the Retail Godown (while that Gentleman presided at the Board of Trade) and which from the hurry in transferring the business to His Successor Mr. Barton was omitted to be delivered over, and has since been traced at the General Treasury to have been paid to Mr. Dacres's Attornies Those Gentlemen were called upon for repayment, but as they plead entire Ignorance in the first instance—and want of means to discharge it in the Second We are under the necessity of referring you to their Constituent.

80. In order to facilitate the Settlement of Accounts with the Owners of your Chartered Ships, We have directed your Board of Trade to furnish on the dispatch of each Ship a regular Account of all Occurrences that may have happened from the time of her

Arrival to that of her departure by which the expence of the freight can be in any degree affected.—These Occurrences will be noted in the Order of the insertion of the subjects of them in the Charter-party.

81. We have the honour to transmit to you Copy of a Letter from your Board of Trade shewing the material parts of their Proceedings since the Dispatch of the Ravensworth the several Papers and consultations received with it are mentioned in the List of Packet.

82. Copies of the two Acts of Parliament of the 26th Year of his present Majesty, for producing the Registers and Manifests of Ships &c. to which you desired our particular attention, were submitted to the Advocate General for his examination and report upon such parts of them as were applicable to the Company in India, and the Regulations that occur'd to him as necessary to be adopted in consequence.

83. The Advocate General's Opinion and our Resolutions upon it are recorded in our Consultation of the 19th October by these you will observe that the Mode heretofore pursued with respect to the Manifest or Bills of Lading both of your Cargoes and the Private Trade in your Ships is altered and that, upon the Dispatch of every Ship for Europe, the Custom Master or a Special Officer appointed by us for the express purpose of executing the Prescriptions in the Act, is to receive the Manifest of Goods on board from the Commander, in order that a Duplicate may be made out to be transmitted by such Officer under his Hand and Seal to the Collector or Comptroller of his Majestys Customs in Great Britain,—The original being to be returned to the Commander with an Endorsement specifying the Day and Year on which it was produced, and the name of the Officer who received it.

84. The letter of the Act expresses that this duty is to be executed by the Custom Master, but there is no such Officer at the Station from whence your Ships are dispatched, and its distance from Calcutta, if the Custom Master at Calcutta were obliged to perform this Service would remove his Attendance from the place where his duty centers, to the injury of the business of his Office.

85. To avoid such an inconvenience we have availed ourselves of the Provision which the Act seems to make in this Case by considering ourselves in the light of Principal Officer, or Magistrate, and determined to appoint the Person who may be nominated to dispatch each ship to act as special Officer under a Commission and distinct instructions to execute this additional Duty—A Copy of these insructions will be transmitted to you a number in the Packet.

86. The Companies Attorney reported to us in a Letter dated the 12th instant that the Bill in Equity against Messrs. Barton and Blacquiere was filed according to the Govr. Generals proposition upon the first introduction of the General Subject, Mr. Blacquiere should have been immediately suspended from his Office, but as his Services at this time when your Ships are under Dispatch, must be required by your Export

Ware House Keeper who will be relieved by them from a Degree of Labour which it would be impossible for him to execute entirely himself We have agreed to Postpone that Measure until the Export Ware House Keeper can point out other Assistance to supply Mr. Blacquieres place.

87. The Company's Attorney reported to us on the 27th Instant that Exceptions were filed at the latter end of Octr. to the Answer and further Answer to Mr. Henschman in the Suit Consn. 7th Decr. brought against him and Mr. Barton and that these Exceptions after a full Argument before the Supreme Court were allowed. Mr. Henschman is now consequently bound to put in a further Answer to the Bill a Copy of the Exceptions attend you in the Packet.

88. Copies of the Answers filed by Messrs Barton Rider and Sumner to the Bill against them attend you also in the Packet. Mr. Keighly's answer is not yet filed but your Attorney informs us that it is in forwardness and that he is in hopes to be able to transmit it in time for this Dispatch.

89. In pursuance of your Orders P. Minerva the Proprietors of the Premises now allotted to the Export Warehouse have been apprized of our intention to relinquish them at the expiration of the Lease This Measure will render some Additional Buildings in the Old Fort necessary for the business of the Export Warehouse; and as that place is the most commodiously situated for Offices under the Commercial Department. We have given Orders for its being surveyed by an Engineer Officer, or a Builder, under particular Instructions both as to the Number and Extent of the Buildings which will be required and the Expence requisite to Construct the whole or such Part of them as the Ground attached to the Premises will admit when we shall take the subject into consideration.

90. In order to Invalidate Captn. Roddam's Protest Copy of which was forwarded to you with our Letter of the 29th Sepr. We called upon the Gentlemen who had recommended that the Salt Petre should be removed, for a fuller Statement of the Consn. 2nd Oct. particular Grounds upon which their Unanimous opinion was founded; and we at the same time desired the Board of Trade to point out the mode in which Ravensworth was loaded, and in what particulars it differed from the usual practice.

91. These Original Papers in conformity to the Advocate Generals recommendation will be forwarded if possible Consn. 12th Decr. in the Busbridge. Copies will follow in some other Ship.

92. The Agent for dispatching that Ship, upon mustering her Crew, found the Charter party number incomplete, and his Protest in consequence was forwarded under cover to your Secretary a Duplicate attends you in the Busbridge.

93. We have Appointed Mr. John Haldane to a Seat at the Board of Trade vacated by the dismissal of Mr. Bateman Consn. 28th Sept. from your Service and we have confirmed Mr.

2nd. Oct.

Bristow and Mr. Kennaway in their Stations in consequence of the dismissal of Mr. Barton & Mr. Rider.

94. Mr. Bolts whom in our letter of the 27th July we advised you had been Appointed to the Office of Agent for loading and Unloading the Companys Ships having been unfortunately drowned in the late Storm We have nominated Mr. George Allen, the Gentleman appointed by you to succeed to the office of Master Attendant to the Station of Agent in the Room of Mr. Bolts and we have Authorized an additional expence of 150 Sa. Rs. a month to this Establishment as an increase to the Salary of the Deputy, According to a Recommendation from your Board of Trade.

95. Captn. Chatfield of the Rodney having lost his third Mate on the Passage out and promoted the 4th to the Vacant place in his Ship, in which we accordingly Acquiesced on his taking the usual Oath.

96. The Agents of the 1st and 5th Officers of the Walpole having Applied for Certificates on Account their privilege after the Ship had finally quitted this Port It became a Question whether they could be granted without a Deviation from the Spirit of your orders Dated 10th Sept. 1783, 15th Decr. 1775 & 13th February 1777.

97. After considering the Case we were of Opinion that the Orders did not apply to any Ship whilst on her Voyage but were merely intended to prevent the Privilege of a former Voyage from being admitted in a Succeeding One. This Construction indeed was particularly pertinent in the Case before us, as the Officers concerned had not been furnished with Vouchers of Nonpayment here, on the production alone of which Vouchers your Supra Cargoes in China could regularly have granted Bills in their favour Under these circumstances we granted the Certificates.

98. Mr. Robertson late 2d. Officer of the Walpole being recovered from the Illness which compelled him to leave that Consn. 7th December Ship, has obtained our permission to return to Europe in the Thetis and to carry home the privilege of Private Trade to which his former Station entitled him.

99. The various Modes proposed & Agitated for payment of the Debt owing to the Rajah of Travancore thro' the Medium of Soucars and Private Persons, having failed or been deemed too disadvantageous to the Company your Government at Fort St. George have at length determined to make the Remittance by Degrees in Specie and they have at the same time, reserved to themselves an Opening to adopt any more eligible mode that may occur. Their Bills for the Amount will be drawn upon us at 30 days sight and we have authorized a preference in their Payment.

100. Two more of the Pilot Schooners ordered to be constructed for our use have been sent round from Bombay since our last Advices were written They have been admitted on this Establishment, and your Master Attendant has been Authorized to dispose of the least

Serviceable of the Old Pilot Vessells—whose places will be supplied by the New.

101. The expence of these Vessells appears to be very great The Accounts received with them have been referred for Examination to your Marine Pay Master—His Report upon them and upon the Vessells which are also very imperfectly fitted out will be communicated on some future Occasion.

102. A Letter from your Marine Pay Master and Master Attendant containing their Opinion on the plan for laying Moorings at Diamond Harbour, after two years Experience of the Convenience and Inconvenience attending it is transmitted a Number in the Packet We beg leave to refer it to your Consideration.

103. In the Consultation noted in the Margin you will Observe a Letter from the Accountant General in which he  
 Consn. 16th Oct. points out Various Advantages to be derived from adopting the Measure of Admitting the Transfer of your Debt in Bombay Bonds & Bencoolen Paper Currency to this Presidency under certain Stipulations.

104. As your Orders of 28th January & 9th December 1784 and 11th April 1785 sanction the Adoption of this Plan,  
 Consn. 16th Oct. We considered it with serious attention and passed our Resolution upon it in the Affirmative, Subject to the Governor Generals Approbation.

105. A Reference having been accordingly made to Lord Cornwallis, his Lordship was pleased to express his Opinion in full confirmation of our Resolution but, as we had reason to believe that the Next Dispatches from your Hon'ble Court would  
 Consn. 8th Nov. contain Instructions relative to the Finances of this Country His Lordship deemed it prudent to Postpone the Publication of our Intentions until the Arrival of such Advices but Observed that, if the next Letter should not produce any Alteration of System He should approve of proceeding upon the business immediately.

106. Having obtained from the Post Master General an Account of the Expences attending the Establishment of Dawk Bearers during the last Season and of the Particulars and  
 Cons. 25th Sept. amount of Remissions to those who were allowed to travell free of any Charge for them we were induced to believe that the Establishment allowed by your Hon'ble Court was not Adequate to the Expence and therefore Resolved that it should be abolished altogether rather than that we should deviate from your Positive Orders.

107. On referring to the Consultation of the 1st of August 1785 We observed that Mr. Macpherson at the time he  
 Consn. 25th Sept. recommended the purchase of the Bungalow at Barrackpore assigned reasons for deviating from the Resolution of the 2d. May preceding. when the Tender of it was first made by Captain Mac Intyre.

108. Considering the size of the Bungalow & the Extent of Ground attached to it, We are of Opinion that the purchase was reasonable Originally. Experience has since proved the expediency of it, as the situation of the Contiguous and circumjacent Ground is

such with respect to the Cantonments as infallibly would render the latter unhealthy had it not been sold to any private Person and converted into an Indigo Plantation for which it is Commodiously placed, and has been considered well adapted with respect to Soil.

109. Previous to the Adoption of any measures with attornies or Executors of the late Mr. Keble for vesting the property of his Canal, called Bunca Nutta, in the Company, We thought it most advisable to order a regular and Accurate Survey of it to be made and an Estimate to be prepared of the Expences that will be annually required to make it Navigable.

110. Two Engineer Officers are employed upon this service under the immediate Instructions of the Surveyor General.

111. The Commanders of your several Ships having been called upon, according to your Orders, to account for whatever Quantity of the Port Wine put on Board for the Military might remain in their hands, their Several Answers will be found on our Proceedings noted in the Margin—Captains Horn Castle, Robertson and Fairfull have been referred to your Honorable Court for an Adjustment of their Claims for Extra Expenditure, & the Quantity remaining in the Atlas & Rodney will be received by the Hospital Board and Appropriated as you direct.

112. Your Subscription to Mr. Champions Translation of Ferdosis Shahnama[sic] has been paid to that Gentleman who informs us that his Attornies in England have been directed to deliver the number of Copies to your Hon'ble Court.

113. Twenty five Sets of Mr. Gladwins Translation of the Institutes of Timur, were forwarded in the Ravensworth The remaining Sets will be transmitted in different Ships of this Season.

114. The Churchwardens at Fort St. George having requested Bengal Bonds in Sums from 4 to 6000 C.R. each to be granted for the Amount of your Subscription for the Native Poor at Madras in the Name of Mr. Fergusson & in their behalf we have directed their Application to be complied with.

115. Having every Reason to believe upon the Grounds of General Report and Information that Sr. John Macpherson had left the Cape of Good Hope We thought proper to direct the Civil Paymaster to suspend any further payment of his salary until his return An Application from his Attornies to revoke that Order was presented to us and as an Inducement for our Compliance, They offered to enter into Security to refund whatever part they might draw after his death Resignation or Removal.

116. As Sir John Macpherson on leaving Bengal had only intimated his intention of going to Bombay or the Cape (after consulting with Dr. Anderson at Madras) as all Communication with him since his first Embarkation had ceased, as private Advices left us no room to doubt his having proceeded beyond the Cape, and as your Orders

of the 27th March 1783 are positive We did not think proper to comply with the proposal tho' we expressed upon our Proceedings that if Sir John Macpherson should return to his Station, the Arrears of his Salary might be paid to him with Interest from the dates on which it became due.

117. The expences incurred by the Company for printing having of late Years been very enormous, and the rates according to the Original Table being too indefinite to afford any Certain or satisfactory rules for deciding on the different Charges, we judged it most adviseable to order an Inquiry to be made into this subject, & we gave Authority to Messrs Johnson & Price on the part of Government to meet and adjust a New Table of Rates with two Persons appointed by the Superintendants of the Press.

118. To enable them to do this business effectually They were furnished with a General Account of all Expences incurred by the Company for Printing from the first Institution of the Press under Mr. Wilkins to the present time and they were also permitted to take such Steps as they deemed necessary to inform themselves duly and fully of every particular.

119. The Result of their Enquiries was submitted to us on the 28th Sept. with a full explanation of the Grounds upon which their Arrangements were formed we beg leave to refer our Resolutions upon them to your Notice. They are calculated to produce a considerable saving to the Company at the same time that the support of the Press which is of real utility both to Government and the Settlement at large is not neglected.

#### Revenue Department

120. We have the honor to transmit to you from this Department the Proceedings and Papers mentioned in the List of Packet.

121. We shall communicate to you an abstract detail of the more important Transactions relating to this Department under the several Heads recited in our Letter of the 31st July P. Ravensworth.

#### Revenues

122. The Settlement of the Revenues for this year has, for the reasons recorded in our Proceedings of the 5th February last, been made for one year, and the Charge of concluding it was agreeably to your Orders by the Swallow, committed to the collectors. under the following general Instructions and Limitations prescribed by us.

That in every practicable Instance it should be made with the Zemindar;

That, if any exceptions to this Rule should take place, the Reasons for them were to be particularly recorded.

That the Amount of the preceding year should be adopted as an equitable Standard of Assessment, and that no Remission upon that should take place without our particular Sanction. The Exceptions which have taken place to the General Rule of employing the Zemindars are few only, and are founded on the Reasons specified in your Letter by the Swallow, or are in consequence of the Neglect of the Zemindars in discharging the Arrears of their Rental for the former year.

123. In the Beyhar Province, the general principle adopted has been to continue the same Renters, and at the same Rates as in the preceding year and this Rule has also been applied to some of the Districts in Bengal particularly those under the Calcutta Collectorship.

124. The Settlement of the Bengal Districts commencing in April has been concluded with an exception of a very few places where the excessive Inundation proved an insurmountable Impediment. That for Beyhar is in great forwardness. with the Accounts of the Settlement, when received, We shall transmit to you more particular Information; In the mean time it may be further proper to observe that Securities from every Farmer, however responsible, have been invariably required, but declined in every Case of Engagements with a Zemindar or Talookdar for his own Lands, a security in such Instance, being a burthen to the Landholders, and of no Advantage to Government, since the Lands must be ultimately responsible for any eventual Balance whether due to the Security or to Government; and In the Case of Zemindars, Talookdars, or other Landholders declining to engage for the Revenues required from them, they have been called upon for written declarations to that effect as Vouchers for their Refusal, and in all Cases of Farms, except when given in consequence of the Land holder having failed to discharge his Revenue for the last Year, or in consequence of his having disqualified himself by some Act of Delinquency for his holding his Lands, a Stipulation has been made with the former exclusive of his Revenue to Government for a reasonable provision to the dispossessed land holders that no Claim may be on Government for Moshaira.

125. With a View of preparation for the permanent Arrangement intended in the ensuing Year the several Collectors have been enjoined, by particular Instructions, to collect all possible Information on the Assessment, expence of Collection, Choice of Managers, and tenor of Engagements throughout their respective Districts, and in general to ascertain whatever may tend to promote the Success of the Collections and prosperity of the Country, as well by Counter acting Collusion as by preventing Oppression.

126. The Establishments for the Collectorships of Behar have been formed on the same principles as those adopted for the Bengal Divisions.

Consn. 4 Sept.

127. At this period we thought proper to conform a proposed Reduction of the Allowance of Rajah Cullian Singh<sup>1</sup> from

from 50,000 Rupees P. Annum to the Sum of 18,000, Rupees it appearing by the Information of the President of the Board of Revenue that his former Allowance had been originally settled upon him as Dewan of the Behar Province, and in consideration of the Merits and Character of his Father, Rajah Shitabroy; But as he executed no Official Duty as Dewan, and this appeared to us a proper Article for Reduction, We adopted the proposition for it, and on the Surrender of his Jaegheirs to him, which are now under attachment, the whole will be resumed.

128. An Office of great Importance, though of little, expence formerly existed in Beyhar under the name of Amaunut Dufter, in which all the Records of the Province were collected and deposited. As we deemed it of great use, we directed the Board of Revenue to take proper measures for the re-establishment of it, and for having the Accounts compleated for those years in which they might be deficient, as well as for keeping them compleat in future.

129. In our Address by the Ravensworth, We apprized you of the Apprehensions we entertained from the violent Inundations which had prevailed. The Representations on this Subject are very general, and We believe that no memory can recollect, any preceding Instance of similar Inundations. The Instructions which we issued upon this Occasion were such as we deemed calculated to prevent any Augmentation of Distress on the Ryots by enforcing Demands which they were incapable of discharging, and, at the same time, to guard against any fictitious pleas of Distress; Temporary Suspensions of the Demands have in some places been admitted, we have reason to fear that some of these Suspensions will, from absolute necessity prove confirmed Remissions.—The Distress occasioned by the Inundation was aggravated by a Storm which happened on the 2d. Ultimo, and which wherever it prevailed destroyed much of the existing Crops Every Means have been directed to ascertain and guard against loss, but that some will happen on the amount of the Rents is unavoidable.

130. With respect to the Settlement of the Salt Districts, as we were clearly of opinion that the present System united the Interests of Government and the Zemindars in a manner more advantageous to both than could be effected by restoring the Zemindars to the Management of the Collections, we therefore determined that the Salt Districts should continue, as they have been heretofore, under the immediate Management of the Agents. It may be sufficient to observe that the present System provides for the liquidation of the former Debts of the Zemindars to Government, which are now greatly reduced, as well as for their private Debts, the consequences of their former management, while the profits of a most valuable manufacture are fully secured by it to Government, as well as the due payment of the established Revenues.

131. Mr. Henckell, the Collector of Jessore, having Submitted an improved Plan for the Cultivation of the Sunderbunds<sup>2</sup>, we wished to afford him every Advantage for carrying it into execution, and

invested him with the Charge of providing the Salt of the District of Roymungul, Situated within the Collectorship, for the ensuing Season.

132. The Commission delegated to Messrs Burrowes and Brooke was notified to you in our Address of the 31st of 17th August July last The Instructions given to the Gentlemen were formed from the Points of Investigation proposed in the Governor General's Minute of the 23d. of the same Month and the Oath Administered to them was similar to that administered to the Commissioners employed in the Investigation at Rungpore.

133. From a Letter addressed to us by the Board of Revenue under Date the 21st of August you will observe 31st Ditt. that, in the Second Sales of Salt, an Imposition had been practised by the ostensible purchasers which occasioned the Resale of the Quantity then disposed of this being wholly unexpected was not provided against; but the Regulations since adopted will in future prevent it. The Amount of the Subsequent Sales, which were uncommonly advantageous, proved deficient only in the Sum of Thirty six thousand Sixty two Rupees which we esteem a fortunate Circumstance.

#### Benares

134. The 136,137,138, and 139 Paragraphs of your General Letter of the 27th March Pr. Minerva were transmitted to Mr. Duncan, the Resident at Benares, for his Information and Guidance.

135. In conformity to the General Rules in appointing Assistants to collectors, we nominated two Assistants to the Resident of Benares, being clearly of opinion that for the present they were requisite and necessary; but how far they will be so after the Completion of the Arrangements ordered We have left for future consideration. We deemed ourselves authorized on the grounds of a general Arrangement to admit a Deviation from your Orders in this particular Instance. The same Reasons as well as the necessity of the Case which is detailed in a Letter from the Resident to the Board of Revenue, recorded in our Proceedings of the 16th October, further influenced us to nominate a Surgeon to the Residency at Benares but we reduced his Allowances to the Amount allowed to the Surgeons in general Stationed with the Collectors. If the appointment of a Surgeon is necessary in any Instance it is so at Benares, and we trust that the Reasons assigned for it will be deemed satisfactory.

136. You will also Observe that we took Measures for securing the opium the produce of Benares for the Company on Account the present year by directing the Resident to adopt such measures for this purpose as he might deem most advantageous, not having sufficient Information on the subject to prescribe any positive mode ourselves, His Consn. 16th Oct. Arrangement in consequence, which we have approved, is transmitted a no. in the Packet.

137. We have already informed you that Charges had been exhibited against the late Resident Mr. Grant; they have since been put into a Train of Enquiry, which we shall enter upon without loss of Time.

138. It will, we hope, afford you Satisfaction to learn that the Rajah of Benares has been invested with the management of the Affairs of his Zemindary; and we can with confidence add our firm conviction that the Measures adopted by the Resident for this purpose have not only been high satisfactory "to the Raja but will mutually" produce equal Credit and advantage to this Government, the Conduct of Mr. Duncan since his appointment to the Residency has been conformable to our Instructions, and has fulfilled the expectations we entertained from his acknowledged Abilities and Integrity, and we further hope that the general prosperity of that province, will exhibit the best proof of the propriety of our Resolutions with regard to it in general as well as our Choice of Mr. Duncan.

139. The Establishment for conducting the Business of the Resident has been formed upon the Strictest plan of œconomy as you Consn. 20th Nov. will perceive by a Reference to it His Personal allowances, were fixed at Benares Rupees 5,000.

140. The Reasons for appointing Mr. Duncan's personal Allowance as they are will appear in the Governor General's Minute recorded in our Proceedings of the 13th July We sincerely hope that it will be confirmed by you, particularly as the profits of the Benares Opium will give an addition to your Resources far exceeding the increased Salary. The Residency of Benares is one of the most important Offices under your Government, and as every Emolument has been precluded the Resident beyond his fixed Allowance, these should be proportioned to the Responsibility, and Importance of the Station.

141. The Contract and Instalments entered into between the Resident and Munnolall for the Provision of the 20th November. Salt Petre of that Zemindarry has been considered and approved and we have given the necessary directions for the Transportation of the Amount contracted for when delivered.

#### Assam

142. Mr. Baillie having delivered a List of Articles proper for presents to the Rajah of Assam,<sup>3</sup> we desired the Consn. 28th Sept. Board of Trade to furnish such as might be in Store and directed Mr. Baillie to provide the remainder.

143. We at the same time directed that Gentleman to forward the Governor General's Letter and the Presents to the Rajah, with a Letter from Himself, requesting permission to enter his Country. The Storm which happened on the 2d. Ultimo having 8th Novemb Sunk Mr. Baillies Boats, which contained the Presents for the Rajah and his own Effects, we have been under the necessity of ordering a Second Provision of the Presents he carried with him The Cost of them amounts to Sicca Rupee 1,009.1.6.

## Miscellaneous Occurrences

144. On the date referred to in the Margin We took into Consideration the Claims of the Ranny of Burdwan to the Management of the Dewry Mehals Had those Claims been preferred for the first time We should not have hesitated in rejecting them, because we should not have deemed them to have any foundation in Right, and because they could not be admitted without alienating a very large proportion of the Revenues of the Government; but we feel some Embarrassment arising from a Grant made by Government in favor of the Ranny. At the same time, as the Benefits of the Grant appeared to have been subsequently resumed, tho' never formally annulled,

6th August. we thought ourselves justified in adhering to the Principles of the above Remark, and accordingly resolved that the Dewary Mahals should not be given up to her Management; but being of Opinion that the Rajah ought to make an allowance to his mother, we directed the Board of Revenue to oblige him to pay her a monthly sum of 4,000 Rupees and to liquidate by Monthly Instalments within a period not exceeding one year the Balance of the Debts of the Dewry Mahals, and all Claims that might have arisen previous to his receiving possession of them, on their being proved; at the same time we recommended it to him to adjust the Ranny's Debts with and release her from the Claims of her Creditors, we believe that this Decision [sic] is perfectly conformable to the prejudices, and Opinions of the Natives and, with respect to the Ranny, liberal.

145. We have the Satisfaction to inform you that the Release of the Ranny of Coochbehar has been effected with the least possible Trouble in consequence and that the District is now freed from all Disturbances.

146. The Charges preferred against Prunkishen Sing late Naib Duan of the Committee of Revenue by Rumjeemull having been thoroughly investigated and laid besew [before] us, we have passed a final decision on the whole in acquittal of the Defendant.

147. You will find in the proceedings referred to a Report by the Board of Revenue and their Opinion on the Utility of the Mazooly Zemindary, Cunnongoe, and Bazee Zemin Dufters accompanied with certain Propositions respecting them, In consequence of which we determined to consolidate the Mazooly Dufter with the Office of Preparer of Reports in a reduced Establishment. The Office of Aumeen General has been long abolish'd The Office of Investigator of the Bazeezemen lands has been amended, and the expences if [of] it much diminished With respect to the Cunongoes Office it is continued for the present, Subject to future Consideration.

148. In consequence of your directions contained in your General Letter of the 27th March (Paragraphs 187, 189, And 190) we directed the Board of Revenue to ascertain every Particular relative to the Grant of the Jaghire to Moneer Ul Dowlah and his Family, and whether, it has been usual on the demise of the Donce to divide the Grant (whether Jaghire or

Consn. 20th Sept.

Ultumga) among his Heirs, we at the Same time directed a Letter to be written to the Resident at Oude for Information, whether the Family of Moneer ul Dowlah ever Obtained possession of his Jaghire in the Dominions of the Nowab Vizier, and have since been informed by the Acting Resident, that the Family of Moneer ul Doula have never obtained Possession of his Jaghire the other Information required is not yet received.

149. The Superintendant of the Botanical Garden having transmitted to us further Information on the proper manner of transporting Europe Trees to this Country, We transmit you a Copy of his Letter a Number in the Packet

150. Accompanying we have the Honor to transmit (a Number in the Packet) a List of the Appointments which have taken place in this department since the last Dispatches.

151. We have also the honor to transmit a number in the Packet an Account of the Balance of the Khalsa Treasury and of the Treasuries of the Several Collectors agreeable to the last Accounts received from them.

152. The State of the General Treasury is as follows.

State of the General Treasury the 14th. December 1787.

Ready Money		
General Bank Notes. . Sa. 99050	Crs.	1,14,898 . .
Gold Mohurs 1,647-4		30,572 15 4
Siccas. . . . . 1,55,114.1.6		1,79,932 5 6
Copper Coin . . . . . 9,076.7.6		10,528 11 3
Dollars. . . . 50,000. . . 1,07,812-8- . .		1,25,062 8 ..
		<hr/> 4,60,994 . 8 1
Balance Account Deposits		5,00,289 . 8 . 11
Balance Accomptant General to the Mayors Court		1,16,918 . 3 . 3
Balance of the old Bonded debt on which the interest has ceased by Public Advertisement		45,117 . 0 . 8
New Bonded Debt at 8 P Cent		1,42,87,481 . 10 . 10
New Bonded Debt Acct. Madras Military Arrs.		28,63,409 . 11 . 2
New Bonded Debt acct. Bombay Military Arrs		15,63,119 . . . 3
4 P Cent Remittance Loan		20,000 .

Fort William  
the 15th eceMBER 1787.

We have the honor to be & ca.

[Pr. Busbridge]

## LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1788

*Revenues and investment adversely affected by heavy rains in Bengal—difficulties in indigo investment.*

THE Honble. the Court of Directors for Affairs Of the Honble. United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

Honble. Sirs,

1. The many proofs that I have observed since my return to the Presidency of the zeal and assiduity with which the public business has been conducted during my absence, in all the departments of Government, has given me the highest satisfaction.

2. I cannot but lament the distresses and miseries that multitudes of the inhabitants have experienced by the extraordinary inundations and storms that have happened in the course of this season in several of the districts of Bengal, and it is not without concern that I see reason to believe that the effects of them will occasion a considerable detriment to your interests, both in your Revenue and your commerce.

3. In many parts of the Country the cultivation has either been so totally interrupted or the Crops so completely destroyed that certain remissions of revenue will become absolutely unavoidable, and the same inclemency of season which has so much affected the revenues of the lands, has, by destroying the habitations and the means of subsistence of the Weavers, been proportionally injurious to the progress of your Investment.

4. It will be the duty of the Board of Revenue to make the most scrupulous investigations and to reject every ill founded claim for deductions in that department, and I have great satisfaction in being thoroughly convinced that no exertion has been spared to promote your interests by the Gentlemen who compose the present Board of Trade or by your other commercial Servants.

5. The precise amount that can be realized for the present Investment cannot yet be ascertained but there is not the smallest probability that Cargoes can be made up either here or at Madras for above seven of the ten Ships that arrived in this river in the course of the Summer. Offers to receive the Goods of Individuals upon freight in the Company's Ships have been twice made by public advertisement, but the quantity tendered has fallen considerably short of my expectations, which may be accounted for principally by the season having been far advanced before the notice could be given, and other means of remittance having been previously arranged.

6. The interest of the Company is so manifestly promoted by the Manufacturers of these provinces being furnished with constant employment, that it gives me pleasure to see any other funds applied

to that purpose, when those of the public prove unequal to it. I must however confess that my opinion is clear that instead of permitting Individuals to remit their fortunes by the means of private Investments, it would be far more to the advantage of the Company to borrow those funds for Bills upon England, and add the amount to their own investment. I cannot help persuading myself that by the adoption of this measure a profit might be obtained on those sums by the sales in Europe, and considerable conveniences would result from it here, by the removal of a very active competition in our own commercial districts.

7. Amongst other articles of your Investment a good deal of my attention has been engaged to encourage the culture of Indigo and raw silk in the Company's Provinces, and I feel it as some disappointment that the very unfavourable season will occasion a great deficiency in our intended provision of the latter, and that I cannot hope that your profits upon the Indigo of this year will be considerable.

8. The manner of cultivating and providing the Investment of Raw Silk is now sufficiently methodized, and I am persuaded that in common seasons, we shall be able to come near your expectations; both in the quantity and quality of that article. In providing the indigo there are still in our way several unavoidable difficulties. The prejudices of the natives in our own dominions against the culture of that Plant, are not yet entirely overcome, and the skill of the European Gentlemen who have engaged in the manufacture of it has perhaps not yet reached that pitch of perfection, at which it may be practicable to arrive. But in forming our plan and in settling our Contracts for that branch of the Investment, we have met with one embarrassment, of which I will own, I was not aware. It is from Mr. Prager, who by thinking proper to class it under the head of Drugs, has put in a claim to become the exclusive purchaser of it, under your appointment as purchaser of Drugs in this Country; This claim could not be admitted, as it would soon have operated as an oppressive Monopoly, and even defeated his own prospects of private advantage by the discouragement, if not the total destruction of the manufacture. I shall beg leave to refer you to his correspondence with the Board of Trade upon that and other points, and I trust that you will agree with me in disapproving of the effrontery and presumption with which his part of it is conducted. I can venture to assert with the utmost safety that the business of your Board of Trade is at present carried on with very extraordinary ability, as well as upon principles of the strictest integrity; And on the other hand I have not the smallest reason to believe that the true interests of the Company are by any means in this, or in any other instance, the primary objects in the conduct of Mr. Prager.

9. It will I think require some further experience to enable you to decide whether you should continue Indigo as an Article in your Investment with a view to profit, or whether you should only permit Indigo raised in your own provinces to be received in your chartered Ships upon freight, as a means of making use of the speculations of individuals to encourage an additional article of Culture which may prove beneficial to this country. I shall only trouble you further on

this subject by recommending to you to be cautious against paying too great respect to propositions which are principally supported by small samples of Indigo of uncommon fineness. Several of the Manufacturers are sufficiently expert to be able to make small quantities of the most superior quality, but in all the Instances of which I have had satisfactory knowledge, it is obtained at so great an expense, as to give it no chance of becoming a profitable article of trade.

10. I have been extremely desirous to give some assistance from this Government to your funds at Canton, but it is a point of considerable difficulty to accomplish it without incurring an unreasonable expense, as to give it no chance of becoming a profitable article of a repetition of those risks which have more than once been attended with great losses in making those remittances.

11. I made an experiment lately of an advertisement offering to receive proposals upon the terms of Exchange that had been usual, but requiring by a deposit of paper a complete security to the public for the performance of the engagement. This mode did not suit the Mercantile Adventurers, and only a mere trifle was offered. I was the less disappointed as I am firmly persuaded that tho' such engagements may be convenient to many speculators in this country, they contribute but little to the ease of your finances at Canton: I am credibly informed that without having contracted those engagements, all the adventurers in the Eastern trade would be constantly led by their own interest to carry to your treasury all the money that they can spare at Canton, for Bills upon England or upon Bengal.

12. The dispatches from your Supracargoes are not yet arrived; but, however unprofitable the measure may be in my own opinion, I shall make another attempt to assist them, if they represent their distress to be materially urgent.

13. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that all our Neighbours continue to profess the most pacific disposition towards your different Governments. The ambition and real inclination of Tippoo are however so well known that should unluckily any difference arise with the French Nation, we must lay our account that the Carnatic will immediately after, become the scene of a dangerous war. In such a case I make no doubt of receiving every proper assistance from home, and it could not fail of proving fortunate for the nation, as well as for the affairs of the Company that the zeal and ability of Sir Archibald Campbell could be made use of, upon an occasion of so much delicacy and importance.

14. I now enclose an Abstract of the Returns that I have received of the number of foreigners, and of Men under size in the different European Regiments upon this establishment; But having already said so much on the condition of your European force, I shall only submit the Return to your inspection without troubling you with a repetition of my former observations upon that important subject.

I have the honour to be with great respect.

Honble Sirs

Your most obedient and

Most humble servant

Cornwallis

Fort William

January 10, 1788.

Endorsed :—

Fort William 10 Jany. 1788

Lre. from the Govr. General

(Earl Cornwallis)

Reced. Per Thetis . .

24th June 1788.

(Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 26, pp. 387-400)

29

## LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1788

*Shipping and investment—Barlow's report on Benares appreciation—opium manufacture at Benares—duties on grain suspended for six months.*

**T**O the Honble Court of Directors,

Honble Sirs,

Military Department.\*

Public Department

19. The Busbridge was quitted by her Pilot on the 26th December Consn. 4th Jany. the Princess Royal on the 31 December and the Henry Dundas on the 4th Instant.

20. The Original Destination of the Princess Royal which was Consn. 28th Dec. direct to Europe, was altered after her Dispatches were closed and she is now proceeding to Bombay.

21. We had been recently advised by that Presidency that in consequence of an arrangement they had made Cons. 19 Decr. which had furnished the General Elliot with a Cargo, they would require Tonnage for an Investment of Surat Piece Goods to the extent of 160 Tons.

22. Captain Horncastle in a Letter addressed to your Board of Trade from Saugar Roads of subsequent date to our dispatches reported that there was vacant Tonnage in his Hold dated 21st Decr. sufficient to take at least four Hundred Bales more Consn. 28th Decr. and he accordingly requested that they might be sent on board.

\*See Fort William—India House Correspondence, Vol. XIX, for paragraphs re. to the Military Department.

23. The Company's allotted Cargoe of 12 Lacs was all the Privilege Goods which had been received at the Ware House previous to the Dispatch of the Packet from Calcutta only a small Quantity of the latter had been afterwards delivered at the Warehouse so that if the Princess Royal had really been capable of receiving the whole addition applied for (which could only be ascertained by Experiment) this addition could not have been furnished without some delay.

24. To Obviate such an inconvenience, (as the Season of the Year was favourable for a Voyage to Bombay) we immediately instructed Captain Horncastle to shape his Course direct for that Presidency, where we informed him that He would be supplied with further consignments. Our Dispatches reached the Ship, and we hope will be the means of your obtaining an early provision of valuable Goods from Bombay for which it would have been difficult in any other case to have appropriated Tonnage.

25. The different proposals for contract for the Cloth Investment of 1788 were opened on the 12 ultimo and referred  
 Consn. 12 Dec. to your Board of Trade for examination, and for the necessary Calculations to be made and submitted to our final decision.

26. Their Report in consequence was delivered to us on the 24th and after full consideration, our sentiments upon the  
 Cons. 24 Dec. Proposals according entirely with the Reasoning of the Board of Trade, We authorised such Contracts as they recommended under the Provisoos they suggested to us, and we further desired them to Prosecute the Measures they proposed, to secure the other parts of the Investment, for which the Tenders were either incomplete or wholly defective.

27. For your fuller information on this subject we beg leave to  
 Consn. 12 Decr. refer you to our Proceedings at large on the dates  
 -do. 24 Decr. noted in the Margin.

28. The Proposals for the Indigo Provision of the Investment were opened on the 21st Ultimo. These also with the Musters were referred to your Board of Trade for their Examination and report of such Tenders as in their judgement (after consulting the proper Officers) should be deemed most advantageous to the Company.

29. Some Correspondence having passed between the Board of Trade and Mr. Prager concerning his right to provide the Indigo Investment and concerning other parts of his Duty. We enclose a copy of our resolutions on it a number in the Packet. We shall only remark further in this Place that Mr. Pragers demands appear to us totally unwarrantable, & his insinuations improper and unjustifiable.

30. The applications for private Freight in consequence of our second advertisement to complete the unoccupied Tonnage of the Ships of this Season were forwarded to the Board of Trade and they were desired to apportion them equally to the several  
 Consn. 28th Decr. Ships. As the Total of these applications fell infinitely  
 Cons .7 Dec. short of our expectations, we directed the Board of Trade to inform us whether they were certain of

being able to supply Cargoes to the remaining ships of the Season, excepting, the Minerva. And we resolved on the Return of that Ship from Fort St. George to send her with Stores to Bombay in order that she may be freighted to China.

31. It appearing by an Estimate of the Export Warehouse Keeper, which we transmit a number in the Packet, that Tonnage could not be expected upon that calculation for the ships intended to be dispatched this Season after the Rodney, and as a great number of Supernumeraries and Invalids (above five hundred) were to be sent to England this Year, we have been obliged to come to the following arrangement respecting your Bengal Ships, and have directed the Board of Trade to appropriate the Tonnage, after providing for the Supernumeraries and Invalids according to the Calculate made by Charter Party for Recruits outward Bound Vizt. one Ton for each to the number of fifty in each ship and one Ton and an half each for any number exceeding fifty.

Cons. 9th Jany.

The Princess Amelia to be loaded with as many Goods not exceeding half a Cargo as the state of the Warehouse will admit after providing for the Rodney, and to proceed to Fort St. George to receive the Half Cargo that will be ready at that Presidency for Europe in March.

The Camden to Proceed to Bombay with Military Stores and from thence to China.

The Minerva, as we have already advised you, to proceed to Bombay and China.

32. We have permitted Mr. Prinsep to lade on the Thetis one Ton of Piece Goods for St. Helena The Freight is to be paid to you in England at the advanced rate at which you are charged for Surplus Tonnage to that Island above Quantity allowed by Charter Party, as the whole was previously occupied.

Con. 24 Decr.

33. Captain Edward Cumming, the Commander of your ship Britannia has been furnished with Certificates to the Amount of £ 8,000. This is an exception to the Orders contained in 2d. Paragraph of your General Letter dated the 10th January 1787 but it is sanctioned in the 49th and 50th Paragraphs of your Instructions to Captain Cumming of the 22nd December 1786 which were given for his Guidance and which if your Orders were intended to have a retrospective effect, We must suppose would have been altered.

Consn. 6 Decr.

34. The second and third Officers of your Ship Britannia having died since her arrival in Bengal—we have appointed Mr. James Ludovic Grant to the Station of second Officer and promoted Messrs John Richardson, and William Lee, who left England in the Stations of 4th and 5th Officers to those of 3rd and 4th. these Gentlemen have taken the usual Oaths.

Consn. 26 Decr.

35. Mr. James Buchanan and Mr. William Phillips of the Henry Dundas have been left in Bengal, the former at the Consn. 21st Decr. particular respect of Captain McNab to settle his Private concerns and those of the Officers of the ship, the latter for the recovery of his Health.

36. An application was made to us early in this Season by some of the Commanders of your Ships that the Charges Consn. 23rd July for the use of the Moorings at Diamond Harbour -do- Decr. might be referred for adjustment to your Hon'ble Court, and their respective Owners, as was the case in the last Year, and we complied with their request.

37. We transmit to you a number in this Dispatch Copy of a report and it's appendix delivered to us by Mr. Consn. 6 Decr. Barlow upon the Trade, Customs, and Mint of Benares, and of the resolutions we passed on receiving them. The Ability, Zeal, and unwearied assiduity with which Mr. Barlow executed the Commission we entrusted to him have justly entitled him to our Acknowledgements and we hope that the measures we shall be able to adopt in Consequence of the information he has laid before us, will extend the Commercial Interests of the Company and the Country.

38. The Resident at Benares has published the advertizement we directed inviting proposals for a Provision of Cloths Consn. 11th Jan. by native Merchants of that Place on account of the present Year 1788. We do not transmit to you the Report he has made to us on the subject as we have not yet passed any resolutions upon it.

39. An Advertisement inviting proposals for Remittances to Canton to the Amount of Ten Lacs of Rupees upon Consn. 6 Decr. such Terms as we deemed reasonable, and under such securities as we thought requisite, was published by our directions on the 3d of December but only one Offer was received on the day appointed for their delivery, and that on being opened was found to be without Signature.

No further Resolutions have yet been passed concerning the supply of Canton.

40. The Exceptions to the Answer of Mr. Henchman to the Bill in Equity carrying on against him having been Consn. 19th Decr. argued and allowed, we have instructed your Attorney to insert the following names on your part in the Commission to be sent home from the Supreme Court to take Mr. Henschmans further answer.

Thomas Morton Esqr. Secretary

William Richardson Esq. Acct.

Saml. Johnson, Esqr. Secy. to the Secret Committee

&

John Smith Esqr.—the Company's Solicitor.

41. A List of the appointments which have taken place in this Department since the Dispatch of the Bursbridge is sent a number in the Packet.

42. An application has been made to us by the Brother of Mr. Robert Ives for the subsistence allowed to that Consn. 12th Decr. Gentleman on his return to Europe in 1785 Mr. Ives is dead and as no regular Certificate has been sent to us of the Period of his Decease, or assurance of the sum he was possessed of We have referred the Claim to your Hon'ble Court for an adjustment of the Amount which may be due to the Estate.

43. The subsistence allowed to Mr. Walter formerly a member of the Board of Trade has been paid to his attornies in Calcutta until the end of December last. We have resolved to refer the Payment of it from that Period to you as a mode the least liable to uncertainty and of equal convenience to the Company and Mr. Walter.

44. We have permitted Mr. Nicholas Grueber, Mr. Joseph Fowke, and Mr. Arthur Molony of your Civil service to return to Europe, Mr. N. Grueber for the Benefit of his Health Mr. Fowke in the subsistence allowed in our General Letter of the 21st September 1785 to servants of his Rank and Mr. Molony for the settlement of his Private Affairs—Messrs Grueber and Fowke embarked in the Princess Royal and Mr. Molony in the Bursbridge.

45. We have permitted Mr. Wombwell to resign your service and beg leave to recommend that in the event of his applying to you for permission to return to this Country with his rank, that his request be complied with.

#### Revenue Department

46. We have the honor to transmit to you from this Department the Proceedings and Papers mentioned in the List of Packet.

#### Land Revenues

47. We enclose an Abstract Jumma Wassil Baukee of Bengal and Beyhar for the Bengal year 1193. The Remarks and Explanations shall be sent by the next Dispatch.

#### Opium

48. The 2d and last sale of the Opium of Bahar and Benares, was on the 8th Instant the former sold upon an average at C. Rs. 587.5.9 per Chest, and the latter at 573.4.5.2 per Chest.

49. The Resident at Benares having submitted to us some Propositions for Purchasing or hiring a Proper Place for Manufacuring the Opium of that Zemindarry. We have given him a Discretion to do in this Respect as he may judge most convenient and beneficial for the Service.

50. We have also approved a Plan submitted to us by the Resident  
 Consn. 7 Decr. for the Provision of the Opium of that Zemindarry.

51. The Opium Contractor having applied for advance on Account his Contract for the present Season we have directed the Board of Revenue to advance him 2 Lacs of Rupees. But a question arising respecting the loss sustained by transporting the same from Patna to Calcutta whether it should fall on the Company or Contractor, We have directed the Contract to be laid before the Advocate General for his opinion on the subject as far as regards the point of Law.

52. The Governor General on his Way to the upper Provinces having ascertained at Patna the Possibility of converting the old Factory House into opium Godowns at a less expence or with more convenience than those proposed to be built by Captn. Garstin, we determined to put them in Proper repair for that Purpose.

53. Captain Garstin having in consequence of Directions submitted to us an Estimate of the Expence—which will attend converting the Factory at Goolzabaug near Patna into an Opium Factory and Godown. We have approved of the Estimate amounting to Sa. Rs. 34093.13.9 and have agreed to allow him the sum of Sa. Rs. 6000 as a compensation for cancelling his former Agreement and in lieu of every allowance & for every trouble in executing the Work.

#### Poolbundy

54. Proposals have been submitted to us in consequence of our resolutions of the 28 November for the Repairs of the  
 Consn. 11 Jany. the Pools of Lushkerpore, Belloorcah & Roojnah—Those of Lieut. James Parlby being the lowest, offered with good security—we have accepted them at the Amount proposed of Sa Rs. 25000 Pr. Annum. He desired to engage on those terms for three Years—we agreed to them for one only; But as the Terms were low we have informed Lieut. Parlby that, if we should make no alteration in the Present Plan of repairing the Pools We would adopt the Proposals he has made us for the two succeeding Years on the same agreement.

#### Miscellaneous Occurrences

55. The Board of Revenue having submitted to us such proposals as had been tendered to them for the repairs of the Custom House we resolved that the old Godowns on the north side of it should not be repaired for the present and with respect to the rest we directed the Board of Revenue to accept the lowest Proposals that had been offered, subjecting the work to the inspection of the Civil Architect when completed or of such other persons as we should appoint for the Purpose.

56. For Reasons set forth by the Collector of Beyhar we have authorised a Police Office & Establishment of 127 Rs. Per mensem for the city of Gya.

57. The late Inundation having affected some parts of the Country more than others we have Authorised the suspension of the Duties on Grain for the Period of six Months to encourage the Transportation to such places as have suffered most.

58. Having received Information of the Death of Neshandet Khan One of the sons of the late Nawab Maneer-ul-Dowlah, We have directed the Board of Revenue to attach that Portion of the Jaghire of Moneer-ul-dowlah which was enjoyed by Neshandet Khan.

59. Since the Return of the Governor General to the Presidency, we have entered into an Investigation of the  
 Consn. 4 Jany. Complaints preferred against Mr. James Grant, late Resident at Benares Our Proceedings upon this subject are separate from our other Proceedings in the Revenue Department and will be transmitted to you when completed with the resolutions we may find it necessary to Pass upon Mr. Grants conduct.

60. We transmit to you number in this dispatch states of the General & Khalsa Treasuries to the latest Period.

We have the honor to be  
 with great respect

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants

Fort William  
 12th January 1788.

P. S. You will observe by our Proceedings of the 9th Instant that means had been taken by the Export Warehouse  
 Consn. 9 January Keeper to take on board the Thetis sufficient Goods to occupy the whole of her Tonnage, & additional Invoices & Papers were prepared for the information of the Particulars But we have this instant been apprised by the Board of Trade that the Thetis has not been able to take in the additional Goods—the Invoices & Papers have therefore been kept back.

14 January 1788—  
 [Pr. Thetis]

## LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1788

*Complaints against supercargoes at Canton unfounded.*

**T**HE Honble. the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble. United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.  
 Honble Sirs,

Having had occasion last season to state to your Honble. Court, as well as to the Select Committee of Supracargoes, that some complaints had been made to me by several commercial people in this

place of having met with obstructions from part of your Supracargoes in carrying on their trade at Canton; I consider it as incumbent upon me for your complete information, and in justice to some of the individuals to whom those complaints alluded, to enclose a copy of the whole correspondence that has passed this season between me and the Select Committee of Supracargoes, Messrs. Lane Lance and Fitzhugh, and Mr Cox, upon that subject. My sentiments are so fully expressed in the answers that I wrote to the several letters which I received from those Gentlemen that it will not be necessary to say much more in explanation of them.

2. I make no hesitation in declaring that later and more authentic information has convinced me that the complaints, which alluded to Mr. Cox, proceeded from improper motives, and were without foundation and that his general conduct as a Merchant at Canton has been fair and honorable.

3. I am equally ready to acknowledge my persuasion that the traders from this port derived material benefit from the prudent management of the house of Messrs Lane, Lance and Fitzhugh, in conducting the Ophium Monopoly last year at Canton; and I think it unnecessary at present to trouble you any further upon this subject than by repeating in substance what I have said to the Select Committee of Supracargoes, that my opinion is clear that the Junior Supracargoes, might have it in their power, without deviating from the duty which they owe to the Company, to render essential assistance to the traders from this Country, by confining themselves to the transacting of commercial business by commission; but that their engaging upon their own account in private trade, either by public permission or by sufferance, would soon put the commercial Adventurers from this Country at their mercy, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences in the Company's general interests in China.

I have the honor to be with great respect.

HONBLE. SIRS

Your most obedient  
Most humble Servant  
Cornwallis

Fort William

January 26th 1788.

[Endorsed] :—

Fort William 26. Jany. 1788

Letter from the Governor General

Recd. Per Britannia

8th July 1788.

No. 1

[Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 26, pp. 415-418].

29 JANUARY 1788

31

LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1788

*Investigating party sent to the island of Cheduba—despatch of summary of laws restraining unlicensed Britons from residing within Company's jurisdiction.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, at their House in Leaden Hall Street.

London

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We transmit to you by the *Britannia* a copy of our Advices of the 12th Instant by the *Thetis* and the other Papers mentioned in the List of Packet as appertaining to the.—

Military Department\*

Public Department

11. The *Thetis* was quitted by her Pilot on the 22d Instant.

12. The Agent appointed to dispatch that Ship reported to us on his return to Calcutta that He had made an Exception on the back of the Bill of Lading of 70 Bales of the Cargo which had not been taken on board, and he informed us that 12 other Bales of piece Goods, which had not been inserted in the Original Bill of Lading, were afterwards received.

13. The Cargo of the *Britannia* now under Dispatch amount to C. Rs. 7,28,550. We beg leave to refer you to the enclosed Copy of a Letter which we received this Day from the Board of Trade in Explanation of the limited Investment put on board this Ship.

14. The *Minerva* returned from Fort St. George on the 26th Instant. This Ship will be dispatched again to the Coast in a few Days to take on board such Part of his Majesty's 71 Regiment under Orders from the Secretary at War to proceed to Bombay, as can be accommodated in the Ship to that Presidency.—The rest will be embarked in the *Camden* which will also stop at Fort St. George in her Way to Bombay to receive them.—This Provision has been made for the Conveyance of the Regiment as it will take from the two Ships very little out of their come [sic] to Bombay and Sir Archibald Campbell may not have determined on other Means of transporting it.

15. We have permitted Captain Fairfull to send home 10 Bales of Cloths, in one of your Ships of this Season being a part of the Privilege to which he would have been entitled, if the Destination of the *Minerva* had not been altered, and we have granted the Indulgence of shipping Piece Goods equal to the whole of his Privilege to Captain Dance.

16. Captain Larkins Commander of the Warren Hastings having been obliged from the Badness of the Markets at Bombay to send the

\*See *Fort William India House Correspondence*, Vol. XIX, for paragraphs relating to the Military Department.

greater Part of his private Investment to Bengal, requested thro' the Government of Bombay to be permitted to pay into our Treasury the Amount of his Certificate Indulgence (excepting 10,496 Rs.) and we have allowed the Amount to be received from his Attornies.

17. The Governor General having been informed thro' the Master Attendant that the Commander of a Country Vessel on his late Voyage from China, had seen some People on the Island of Cheduba whom he supposed to be Europeans, suggested to us the Propriety of employing the Grey hound Bombay Cruizer on a Voyage to that Island both that the Fact represented, might be ascertained and that the Situation of the Island might be more accurately known.

18. We readily acquiesced in this Measure, and in consequence of a further recommendation from the Governor General Mr. Reuben Burrow was also employed upon this Service.—The Instructions given to him and to the Commander of the Grey hound are sent numbers in the Packet.

19. The many subjects which engaged our attention previous to the Dispatch of the Thetis prevented us from sending you as we proposed, Our Remarks and Resolutions upon the Correspondence between Mr. Prager and the Board of Trade, they are forwarded a number in the Packet P. Britannia and we beg leave to refer them to your Consideration.

20. In Consequence of an Advertizement issued by the Resident at Benares upon Receipt of our Orders advised in the [...] Paragraph of our Address by the Thetis one Proposal only was delivered to him by a Native to provide an Investment of Cloths by Contract which we rejected after comparing the Terms of the Tender with the Payments heretofore made to Mr. Scott, and Mr. Barlows Estimate.—The medium Increase upon Mr. Scotts prices was  $17\frac{3}{4}$  P Cent and it was infinitely greater upon some Articles in Mr. Barlows Statement.

21. Deeming it however of Consequence to make a Trial of the existing means of that Zemindarry to supply an Investment without any influence of Government or previous Advances to the Weavers, We have deputed Mr. John Lloyd of your Civil Service to Benares, for the purpose of ascertaining, whether Cloths are to be procured upon that System His Purchases are however to be confined to the Sum of two Lacs of Rupees to be according to Musters furnished by the Board of Trade whose Instructions he will be guided by in other particulars Mr. Lloyd, whilst he is employed upon this Service is to draw the Monthly Sum of 500 Rupees in addition to the Sub-sistance of a Senior Merchant.

22. We forward to you a number in the Packet, Copy of a Letter from the Advocate General, containing a connected Summary of the various Laws which have been enacted for restraining British Subjects not in his Majesty's or the Company's Service nor licensed by the Company from residing within the limits of the Company's Charter, with his Opinion as to the Mode of legally and effectually exercising the Power vested in Government for compelling those, who are not deemed fit objects to remain in India, to return to Great Britain.

23. We beg leave to transmit this Opinion to you as it contains the Grounds upon which we shall hereafter think it necessary to proceed, with regard to the different Classes of European British Subjects in these Provinces.

24. Your Advocate General, having reported to us that Mr. John Sumner had fully and substantially denied all Charges which materially affected him in the bill in equity filed against him at the Suit of the Hon'ble Company, and having declared that it would be nugatory to proceed, unless there was Reason for doubting the truth of his Answer which was confirmed by Mr. Barton and Mr. Rider. The Bill as far as Mr. Sumner was concerned in it has been dismissed, and He has obtained our Permission to return to Europe in the Britannia, having given Security for the Adjustment of his Accounts with the Board of Trade.

25. We have permitted The Rt. Hon'ble Lindsay to resign your Service.

26. You will receive in the Packet P. Thetis, a Memorial from Sir Charles Blunt containing an Application for the Repayment of the Amount which he had been allowed to draw for subsistence, as a Servant out of Employ: He having refunded the same in Pursuance of your Orders Per Minerva.

27. We cannot but support the Justice of Sir Charles Blunt's Arguments with our Opinion in favor of them, and to recommend your Compliance well with his Application.

28. We transmit to you the last letters which we have received from Prince of Wales Island, and the Answer we have sent to them We also enclose a Copy of our Last Letters to your Supra Cargoes in China by which you will observe that we have engaged a supply of Cash at Canton Payable between the 1st December 1788 and the 1st. February 1789 to the Amount of nine Lacks of Rupees.

29. The State of the General and Khalsa Treasuries on this Day are transmitted to you enclosed.

We have the Honor to be,  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your Most faithful  
Humble Servants,

Fort William  
the 29th January 1788.  
[Pr. Britannia]

## LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1788

*Pepper from Travancore—indigo contract with Benjamin Boyce—publication of Kirkpatrick's Grammar and Dictionary of the Hindustani language given up—rice permitted to be sent only to Madras.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies, at their House in Leaden Hall Street.

London.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Military Department\*

Public Department

14. We transmit to you our Proceedings in this Department for the Months of December and January with the Index for the former, that for January will be sent in the Rodney.

15. The Britannia, which was the last Ship dispatched from hence to England, was quitted by her Pilot on the 3rd. Instant.

16. Your Ships Camden and Minerva will proceed immediately to Madras and Bombay, as advised in our last Letter but [sic] Intelligence which we have lately received from your Servants at Bombay acquainting us that the Resident at Anjengo had engaged the King of Travencore in a contract to deliver twelve hundred and fifty Candies of Pepper of 560 lbs each into Warehouse at that Subordinate by the 20th March, we shall leave the Governor in Council at Bombay at liberty to dispatch the Camden or Minerva (whichever may first arrive) with this Cargo of Pepper to England if he judges proper instead of sending both Ships, as we first proposed, to China to be dispatched from thence to Europe.

17. Our latest Advices from Canton inform us of sundry Payments made into your Treasury there by the Agents of Mr. Bruere on Account of his Engagements for 1785/6 and 86/7 and on account of Captain Waugh's Certificates of these Payments have been produced, and the Trustees for Mr. Bruere's Affairs have been called upon for various Explanations and Statements to enable your Account[ant] General to prepare a particular Account of the Company's Demand upon the Estate and the means remaining to liquidate the Claim.

18. In Addition to the Supplies to your Supra Cargoes at Canton advised in our Letter P. Britannia We have obtained other Bills in their favor to the Amount of Drs 40,000 drawn at the same Rate and payable at Nearly the same periods.

19. We transmit to you a Number in the Packet Copy of a Letter addressed to us by Mr. Joseph Price containing a Plan for making Remittances to your Supra Cargoes thro' the Medium of the Mercantile Productions of Bengal.

20. The Candour and Openness of the proposal have induced us to make a partial Trial of it this Season by engaging Mr. Price as a Contractor or for the Amount of three Lacks of Rupees payable at Canton on or before the 10th March 1789—And we have declared our Intention to give him the preference upon the same Terms in the Remittances which this Government may make to Canton in

\*See *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. XIX, for paragraphs relating to the Military Department.

the next two years provided his Engagements for cash preceding year have been previously fulfilled. Our Resolutions on Mr. Price's Letter are transmitted with it.

21. An Application having been made to us by some established Houses in Calcutta to extend the period for receiving Subscriptions to the Remittance of the Bonded Debt upon the Terms prescribed in your General Letter of the 15th September 1785. We have complied with it and published an Advertizement lengthening the period for keeping our Treasury open on this Account to the 5th of Month.

22. We transmit to you by the Atlas the Original Letters addressed by Captain Roddam, and the Officers of the Ravensworth to the Servants of the Export Warehouse, at the time the Consn. 30th Jany. lading of that Ship was in progress—These original Papers are sent to you according to the Advocate General's Advice, and are accompanied with a Copy of the report from the Gentlemen, who were employed to survey the Ravensworth, containing the Grounds for their unanimous Opinion of the Necessity of taking out 800 Bags of the Salt Petre which had been laden on that Ship. The Original of the report was forwarded by the Busbridge.

23. In consequence of a Representation from the Commander and Purser of the Minerva that they had sent home the Certificates granted to them for the amount of their Indulgences being Ct. Rs. 38,311.11.—without the necessary Endorsement under a Supposition that the Endorsement of their Attornies would be sufficient, we have at their request granted them other sets of Certificates conditionally for the payment of the same Sums.

24. In our Proceedings noted in the Margin\* you will observe a Letter from the Board of Trade and our Resolutions upon it, respecting Mr. Sumner's unadjusted Accounts with the Company. Those Resolutions will lead to the immediate recovery of some of your Claims, and enable the Board of Trade to proceed upon the proper Measures to obtain the largest Amount which is recoverable either from the Estate of Mr. Stephenson or from Mr. Sumner: There is one Charge, however, which we beg leave to refer to your final Decision, altho' we have expressed our disapprobation of it, unless some public Authority can be shewn for its having been made, It is for Salt Petre Expended for private use out of the Company's Stores during the three years of Mr. Sumner's Chiefship, and Amounting to Ct. Rs. 7,746.5.4. The charge is openly stated in the Accounts, and is justified as far as it can be on the Grounds of Prescription and it has been passed without Censure or Objection in former Instances. Those Instances were of Agents; Mr. Sumner was employed as a Contractor.

25. We have desired the Advocate General's Opinion of the most advisable mode of proceeding to recover the Amount stated to be due to the Company either from the Estate of the late Mr. Stephenson or from Mr. Sumner, or from both jointly.

\*Margin in the copy is blank.

26. We transmit to you a Number in the Packet Copy of a Letter addressed to us on 4th Instant by Mr. Benjamin Boyce, Agent for the Manufacture of Indigo. The Discoveries he has communicated to us with respect to that Manufacture have not been noticed in our Records for they appear to be entrusted to our Confidence; but he desired that they might be stated to your Hon'ble Court with the Proposals submitted with them, which are in terms as follow "That if the Company will grant him the honor of establishing a Branch of Commerce he will enable them to undersell any other part of the World in Indigo of any kind, and rely on whatever they may be pleased to grant him for his Services."

27. It is much our wish that we were freed from the restriction imposed on us, and at liberty to make a trial for the public Good of the Improvements Mr. Boyce has suggested to us; And we propose to offer him a Moderate compensation for this privilege to be paid in the event only of his Plan being found to answer for a large Quantity of Indigo after a sufficient trial of the Effects.

28. We have accepted the Proposal made to us by Mr. Boyce that he should tender to the Company such Indigo as he Manufactures at his own Expence during the reference of his Proposals to the Court of Directors the said Indigo being charged at reasonable rates; And if the parties should disagree about price, on which we have admitted that a resolution should pass within 14 Days after the tender of the Indigo, We have agreed that Mr. Boyce shall have Tonnage for it on the usual Terms on the Ships of that Season.

29. An Order has also been issued to the Collectors of the Districts he has pointed out to give him every lawful protection and reasonable Assistance that Merchants and Manufacturers are in general entitled to from Government.

30. In consequence of information communicated to us by your Advocate General, which is recorded in our Secret Proceedings of the 30th. January, we directed Attorney at Law to make an application to the Supreme Court of Judicature for a Writ of Ne Exeat Regno<sup>1</sup> against Mr. J. J. Keighly which being granted and Served, Security was first required from him in the amount of One Million of Current Rupees. Mr. Keighly representing the impossibility of obtaining Bail for so large a Sum, pleading, with the support of an Opinion of the Surgeon who attended him the ill-consequences which his Health already much impaired would suffer from Restraints that must of course follow his inability to give the required Bail, if we persisted in demanding it. We instructed the Attorney to obtain an Alteration in the Writ, and to reduce the Security required to two Lacs of Sa. Rupees engaged by Mr. Keighly himself and two Lacs more by two Persons of acknowledged Property; And we authorized his enlargement upon these terms.

Consn. 4th Feb.

31. We have permitted Messrs A. E. Young, and Humphry Stuart to resign your Service. Mr. Young requests your leave to return with his rank on this Establishment, as soon as the adjustment of his private Affairs shall admit and we beg leave to recommend that the Permission may be granted.

32. The Reverend Mr. Johnson, Senior Chaplain at this Presidency, has resigned his Station. His object in returning to Europe is explained in his Letter to us upon this Occasion. A copy of it is  
 Consn. 1st Feb. transmitted in the Packet.—As we understand that Mr. Johnson's affairs are unsettled and that he wishes to return to Bengal for their Adjustment, we recommend that on[in] that Case his Request should be granted.

33. Mr. John Pendred Scott proceeds to Europe in the Atlas. His trading concerns in this Country, chiefly in the Province of Oude, have been very extensive, and uniformly conducted upon Principles which do him Credit. He brought forward and cherished the Fabric of Cloths in that Province, and we are assured that his fair dealing to the Manufacturers and his general Conduct have been such as made his residence in it a Public Benefit, and a subject of satisfaction to the Vizier and his Minister. As he goes home upon his private Affairs, and expresses a great desire to return to this Country, we are induced from the Considerations we have mentioned to recommend that he may be allowed to come back whenever he may apply to you for that permission.

34. We have agreed that Mr. Scott upon the general License you have given us in such Cases should be allowed to enter into Covenants similar to those of Mr. Lyon Prager, and, if he should have leave, as we have proposed to your Hon'ble Court, for his return to Bengal, he may then execute them.

35. As we have abolished the appointment held by Captain Forrest on the Marine Establishment of this Presidency, having no further occasion for his Services He had requested permission to return to Europe in the Atlas, and to have an Advance of six Months pay, and Passage Money which had been granted to two Commanders of Packets. The first part of his application has been complied with; but as we did not consider Captain Forrest's situation to correspond with that of Captains Poynter and Clifton, whose instances were quoted as a precedent for the other Indulgence, We have referred him to you such compnsation as you may deem him entitled to.

36. We transmit to you in this Packet Copy of a Letter from Captain Kirkpatrick explaining the Circumstances which retarded the Publication of his Grammar and Dictionary of  
 Consn. 4th Feb. the Hindostan Language, and the Motives which have since induced him to relinquish the design of printing them.

37. We acquainted you in our Advances from the Revenue Department Pr. Thetis that we had authorized a general Suspension of the Duties on Grain for six Months, in order to encourage the Transportation of it to such places as have suffered most by Inundation We afterwards Imposed an Embargo on the Exportation of this Article with an exception of the rice to be dispatched to the Presidency of Fort St. George to complete Mr. Tyler's Contract for the Delivery of two Lacks of Bags. This measure was stated by Mr. Tyler

as operating to his disadvantage, and, as his Engagements with the Merchants of the Country would, if taken off his hands by the Company, throw in a considerable Supply for the immediate Relief of the Inhabitants, we have agreed to this Measure, taking the Rice at the actual Cost settled in his Contracts with the Proprietors, and we have appointed a Committee to make the Adjustment with him accordingly We have acquainted the President in Council at Fort St. George, that if the want of rice there should make a supply from Bengal indispensably necessary, we will, on his representation, provide any Quantity that our own necessities will admit after the operation which we trust will be successful of the Measures we have taken to alleviate the Distress of this Country. Copies of Mr. Tyler's Letters and of our Resolutions on them are transmitted in the Packet.

Fort William  
the 12th. February 1788.  
[Pr Atlas]

We have the Honor to be,  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your Most faithful,  
Humble Servants,

### LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1788

*Increase in the allowances of the Accountant General strongly recommended—utility and duties of the office of Quarter-Master General—repairs and additions to Fort William—export of rice to Madras to be stopped—improvement in Benares affairs—commercial treaty with Oudh drafted—draft bill for enhancing powers of Calcutta city police.*

**T**HE Honble. Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble. United Company of Merchants Trading to the East Indies.

Honble. Sirs.

Para. 1. I feel a peculiar pleasure in embracing the earliest opportunity to express the very high gratification that I received from the general tenor of your dispatches, which arrived at this Presidency on the 19th Ultimo, in the Ranger Packet.

2. Your approbation of the public measures since my accession to this Government, cannot fail of giving great satisfaction to the other Members of the Board. But the station which I have the honor to fill, entitles me to take a particular concern in the sentiments which you declare upon our public conduct, and to offer my warmest acknowledgements.

3. It would be presumptuous in me to suppose that I can always avoid error in conducting affairs of so much variety and magnitude as those under the direction or control of this Government. But as I have the clearest consciousness that all my public Actions will be directed by the most ardent zeal to promote the national honor, and the prosperity of the Company's Affairs, and being fully persuaded that those Actions will be examined by you with liberality and candour, I trust that I am not too confident when I entertain the most sanguine hopes that I shall be able to retain the good opinion of the Court of Directors during the future part of my Government.

4. Being particularly gratified by your liberal attention to my recommendation to encrease the allowances of some of the public officers at this Presidency, I thought it my duty to be scrupulously careful not to exceed your intention with respect to the period of their commencement. On that account I moved that those Gentlemen should only receive the encreased allowances from the date of the arrival of the packet, leaving it to you to declare, whether it is your pleasure to extend the indulgence beyond that term.

5. I consider it at the same time as incumbent upon me to remark that when the subject shall come under your consideration, the case of the Accountant General will be particularly entitled to your favourable notice; for exclusive of the personal claims of Mr. Larkins, founded upon long and faithful Services, it is proper to add in favor of his pretensions to an extension of the term of commencement, that he has neither in the form of Batta, establishment of Office, or in any other manner whatever, drawn the smallest advantage beyond his fixed salary, since the reduction of his former allowances.

6. It has been apparent that your service may be greatly promoted by an investigation into the state of many of the public Offices under this Government, and by a new arrangement of them. One day of each week has been allotted by the Board to consider and digest this important subject; and I trust that on the 1st of May next, we shall be able to introduce an improved system for carrying on the public business. Amongst other alterations that will be made in the present mode, it is proposed in order to save great multiplication and useless repetition of labour, to unite the whole Accountant [Accounts] Department under one head, by placing the Accountants of the Revenue and Commercial departments as Deputy and Sub-Accountants General, under the Accountant General.

7. I take the liberty of submitting to your consideration whether on account of the great addition of trouble and a responsibility, that will fall upon the Accountant General when this plan takes place, you will think it right and expedient to grant allowances to that Office, equal to those which the Board thought proper to give to the Secretary to Government, when the same principle operated in the arrangement of his department. You have had so many opportunities of being acquainted with the merits of Mr. Larkins that it is unnecessary for me upon this occasion to enlarge upon them; But I cannot help declaring that the office of Accountant General will become of great importance under this Government, and the zeal and integrity

of the present Accountant General give him the strongest personal claim to every emolument that can with propriety be annexed to his Office.

8. Being anxious that your interests shall not suffer by the confidence that you have placed in this Government in leaving it to us to fix the rate of Exchange for transferring your debts from India, I have been unwilling to come to a final decision upon that subject without making more particular enquiries, and giving it more mature reflection than the short space before the dispatch of the Rodney will conveniently admit. But you may be assured that no time has been lost in considering this, as well as various other important points of business which were contained in your last dispatches.

9. The multiplicity of objects to which I must indispensably devote my attention before the departure of the last Ship of the Season puts it also out of my power at present to examine with due care the whole of the different subjects which you have done me the honor to refer to my determination, but I shall be prepared to give you my sentiments fully upon all of them by the next Sea conveyance.

10. The only point upon which it appears to me to be necessary to give an immediate opinion, is the reference respecting the utility of the Office of Quarter Master General, and I can assure you with the utmost certainty that, even in times of peace, it is one of the most necessary military offices upon this establishment.

11. The duties that have been usually allotted to that Office, tho' various and important, have hitherto been principally of a civil nature such as the provision of boats when necessary for the transport of troops, or of Camp Equipage, the repairs of some branches of roads, and the construction of all temporary buildings, that are requisite for the accommodation of the troops where there are no regular Barracks; and part of the income of that Officer has been derived from a commission of 10 Per Cent upon all Sums expended for any purpose whatever under his control or direction. A variety of other occupations prevented me for some time from acquiring a satisfactory knowledge of the manner in which the duties of that Office had been performed or from considering how the plan for conducting that department could be improved; But having for upwards of a year past had the advantage of the assistance of Lieut. Colonel Cockerell, the present Quarter Master General, who is an Officer of great ability and experience, and upon whose integrity I have the utmost reliance, I have been able to make considerable progress in putting that Office upon a proper Military footing. With that View I have, among other arrangements, added two very important military branches to the other duties of that Office, by establishing it as a rule that the Quarter Master General shall on every possible occasion be a constant member of the Committee for the inspection of all articles delivered for the use of the public, by the Agent for the provision of Camp Equipage and other Military Stores, and that previous to the march of troops it shall be his particular duty to





The River Face of the Old Fort, Calcutta, 1787

obtain correct information of the state of the roads, bridges, and other communications, thro which they must pass, and to prepare proper Routes for the different bodies of troops, when any considerable movement is order'd in the Army upon this Establishment. This latter part of his duty will also be the more important, as I am clearly convinced that the discipline of this Army will be greatly improved by frequent or indeed if possible, annual reliefs.

12. It will be found in all Countries that it will be useful as a preparation for real service in war that troops should be often put in motion in time of peace, and on this establishment it is peculiarly necessary for the Sepoy Regiments are principally composed of Natives of the upper provinces, whose strong apprehensions and prejudices against the water and climate of Bengal, it is essential for your interests to be at great pains to remove.

13. I think it unnecessary to trouble you with more in explanation of the utility of the Office of Quarter Master General on this establishment but I must add that upon the general principle of its being in my opinion highly improper to render it the interest of any individual to increase the public expenditure, I do not approve of that branch of the emoluments which proceeds from a percentage upon the Sums expended by him. In the hands of such a man as Lieutt. Colonel Cockerell no waste or extravagance need be apprehended; But, I strongly recommend that this Office shall in future be considered by you merely as a military Office, and that the Quarter Master General shall charge only the real expense of any service that may be entrusted to his care, or when the Military works in the line of his department can be executed by contract he shall be employed in superintending them solely as an Officer of inspection and control.

14. As the service in the mean time cannot suffer any material injury, I think it proper to leave this point to your consideration, and should you adopt my opinion, I am persuaded that you will think it reasonable that the declared and avowed allowances of the Quarter Master General, should be made equal to those of the Adjutant General. And it will render your decision the more complete if you will consent to the additional allowances commencing at the same period with those of the other Office, only deducting the amount of the commission upon expenditure which the Quarter Master General may in the mean time receive, and of which I shall direct Lieutt. Colonel Cockerell to keep an exact account.

15. Upon my arrival in this Country I was exceedingly disappointed at observing the defective state of some parts of the works, but particularly the many wants of repairs or of additions in the interior parts of Fort William, and I saw with regret that to put it in a tolerable condition as a military place, the expenditure of a considerable sum of money would be absolutely unavoidable. I consider it however as a duty incumbent on me to remove all temptation from the Chief Engineer to increase the public expense upon this, or upon any other service in his department, beyond the bounds of propriety or necessity; and therefore upon the same principle which I recommended to be applied to the Quarter Master

General, I proposed to the Board to make an addition to his public and open allowances in lieu of the percentage he drew upon the sums expended under his direction

16. I have the satisfaction to say that this measure has been already very beneficial to the public, for by the attention and good management of Lieutt. Colonel Call the Chief Engineer, I make no difficulty in assuring you, that the work lately executed by him has been by much the cheapest that has ever been performed in that Fort.

17. The resignation of the Revd : Mr. Johnson enabled us to give an immediate appointment to the Revd : Mr. Ferrier without removing any other Chaplain from actual employment; The Revd : Mr. Owen having according to your former Intentions been appointed to the Presidency, the Revd : Mr. Browne to the Garrison of Fort William and Mr. Ferrier to the Brigade left vacant by the removal of Mr. Brown. The Revd : Messrs. Mackinnon and Seacombe who have not your sanction to reside in this Country, will be informed that they will be deprived of their present situations, upon the arrival of Clergymen that may be nominated by you, and Mr. Brown must also consider his Chaplaincy of Fort William as only a temporary appointment. I cannot however avoid stating to you that Mr. Brown's case is different from the others, as in the station of Chaplain to the Orphan School he has your permission to remain in India; I am induced therefore to recommend, as he has the character of being a man of great piety and worth, and as from the contiguity of Fort William to the Orphan School, the duties of both stations would be entirely compatible, that you will be pleased to confirm what we have done in his favour.

18. The great distress in the lower districts of the Country rendered it necessary to lay an embargo on the exportation of all kinds of grain and means were likewise taken to draw supplies to Dacca where the sufferings of the poor inhabitants were the greatest from Bahar and Benares, where the crops had been abundant.

19. It was at first intended not to interrupt the supply which had been engaged to be furnished by contract to Madras : but hearing that there had been a plentiful crop in the Carnatic and the scarcity increasing to an alarming degree in some of the provinces of Bengal, it was thought expedient to comply with the Contractors request that the Contract should be annulled. We agreed therefore that the Rice which had been delivered by him at Madras should be paid for according to the terms of the Contract, and he consented on his part that the rice in his possession in Bengal should be delivered over to the public at the price which it had actually cost him. Under those conditions the Company has relieved him from all his engagements for freight, which however will be partly repaid by the reasonable profit which will be obtained on the sale of the rice that he had then upon hand.

20. I was induced to make part of the necessary remittances to Fort St. George in the article of rice, by the comparative advantages

that offered for accomplishing it by Contract instead of Agency, which had been a frequent mode at this Presidency. The rice which was provided by Agency when I arrived in this Country cost the Company  $\text{Rs. } 5. 4. 09/29$  per Bag exclusive of the Agent's commission, risk of all kinds, and an exemption from duties at Fort St. George; and by contract it was obtained first at  $\text{Rs. } 4.12$  and afterwards at  $\text{Rs. } 4. 10$  per Bag, the Contractor paying the Madras duties, and delivering it there upon the beach entirely at his own risk and hazard. Advantageous however as those terms appear to be, this mode of remittance has proved more expensive to the public than the less complicated means of common Bills of Exchange. And therefore unless some new circumstances should arise to render the measure necessary or more economical, it is not my intention to engage the public in sending any more rice to Madras.

21. The great deficiency in quantity of the last year's Salt which was occasioned by a most unfavorable season induced some rich dealers in that article to endeavor for a short time to extort an exorbitant price in retailing the Stock in their possession; But to protect the public against that species of oppression, I thought it right to bring forward earlier than usual the sales of the Salt of this year's Manufacture, and it has now fallen again to a moderate rate.

22. I have received the greatest satisfaction from the close application to business and the judicious conduct of Mr Duncan in his station of Resident of Benares. He is now with the Rajah upon a tour through the whole Province, which has for its objects a minute examination of the internal condition of that valuable country, but particularly, in compliance with my directions, to establish regular Courts for the administration of Justice under the authority of the Rajah of Ghauseepoor, Tuanpore and Mirzapore, a measure, which however extraordinary it may appear to you, has been hitherto neglected, but which I trust will tend to promote the happiness and security of the Inhabitants.

23. Mr. Duncan seems to entertain no doubt of being able to realize with facility all the just demands of this Government. By the late arrangements in the Residency the Rajah's income has been considerably increased whilst at the same time I am happy to inform you, that after defraying all the additional expenses of the new establishments a large surplus will in this and all future years arise to the Company by the profits derived from the Mint, and the monopolies of Saltpetre and Ophium, which were formerly in the hands of the Residents, but are now managed for the account of the Company.

24. Upon the article of Benares Ophium we have this year obtained a clear profit of upwards of one lac and seven thousand rupees, and although from an anxiety to prevent the smallest degree of oppression in carrying on that Manufacture, I have directed that instead of 580 Chests, which were delivered last year, only 500 Chests shall be provided for the ensuing year, yet from Mr. Duncan's having engaged the provision of that quantity at a much lower proportional price than was charged last year, the profit to the public will be greatly increased.

25. I have considered it as peculiarly incumbent on me to investigate in the most serious manner the complaints that were brought by the Rajah against Mr. James Grant, the late Resident. But the progress of this investigation has been so much impeded by references to Benares, and of late by the delay of Mr. Grant in giving answers to certain Queries from the Board, that it will not be concluded before the dispatch of the last Ship of the Season. The whole proceedings however, shall as soon as possible, be laid fully before the Honble. Court.

26. Mr. Barlow's reports on the result of his enquiries into the state of the commerce, and the rates of the customs in Owde and Benares, have been long before you, and I am persuaded must have impressed you with the favorable opinion of that Gentleman's character and abilities which he so justly deserves. With Mr. Barlow's assistance and with a view to promote the mutual interests of the Vizier's and the Company's dominions, I framed and proposed, during my short stay last season at Lucknow, a plan of a commercial treaty between the two Countries; And the Vizier's Minister saw so clearly it's useful tendency, and was so well inclined to discuss and arrange the different articles, that I was in hopes that long before now I should have had the pleasure of informing you of it's being finally settled.

27. The main points have been long agreed to on both sides, but there has been so much delay in making the necessary preliminary arrangements in the Vizier's dominions, and particularly in guarding against all exactions by Zemindars or Aumeels and in the settlement of the duties of Furruckabad, that I have now lost all expectation of being able to transmit the treaty executed in form, by this opportunity.

28. I have however thought it would be satisfactory to you to see the draft of the proposed articles which I now enclose especially as it is probable that they will be executed without any material alteration.

29. I am willing to indulge myself in the hopes that this measure will open a commercial intercourse with Owde, and with the internal provinces of the Empire, which will produce most advantageous consequences to the interests of the Company, and by giving security to trade, and throwing out prospects of gain, I flatter myself that it may rouse a spirit of industry and exertion amongst the inhabitants of the Vizier's dominions, which may tend to recover that Country from its present miserable and exhausted condition.

30. You will receive with a letter on the subject from the Board, the draft of an Act of Parliament for giving this Government more extensive powers to enforce good order in the police of this City<sup>1</sup>. As the credit of your Government, and the interests of humanity, and justice call loudly for the measure I am persuaded that you will be inclined to give it your utmost support and assistance; and it will no doubt give you satisfaction to know that the principles of these propositions have been examined and discussed with great delibera-

tion at several meetings of the Members of Government, and judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature; and that in the adjustment of every point, there was the most perfect unanimity.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect.

Honble Sirs

Your most Obedient and

Most humble Servant

Cornwallis

Fort William

March 3, 1788.

(Endorsed)

No. 12

Letter from the Right

Honble. Earl Cornwallis to

the Court of Directors dated 3d.

March 1788.

Reced. Per Rodney

18th August 1788.

[Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 26, pp. 523-550]

12

## LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1788

*Penang island in a flourishing condition—further developments in law-suits against officials guilty of corruption in silk contracts—John Gilchrist financially helped in preparing a dictionary of Hindi—Shore's minutes on rights of landowners and James Grant's work on revenues of Bengal sent—establishment of courts of justice in Benares zamindari—price of salt becomes moderate.*

**T**O The Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies at their House in Leaden Hall Street.

London

Military Department\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Public Department

59. Your Ship Atlas was dispatched by the Agent on the 23d. Ultimo, and the Camden and Minerva sailed for Bombay on the

\*See Fort William-India House Correspondence, Vol. XIX, for paragraphs relating to the Military Department.

same day. The Dispatches of the Princess Amelia were forward from Calcutta on the 29th of last month. As this Ship was to call at Fort St. George to receive a number of Supernumeraries and Invalids to be sent from thence to Europe, and such Cargo actually in readiness for her at Madras as could be laden in Addition to that provided in Bengal, we judged it proper that she should  
 Consn. 15th Feby. not be detained at the Risque of a Winter Passage round the Cape of Good Hope, and therefore dispatched her from hence before the Rodney, which would otherwise have sailed before her.

60. After we had taken this Resolution, and a very short Time before the Princess Amelia's Packet left Town, we received a Letter from your Governor in Council at Fort St. George, desiring that the Ship appointed to receive a second half Cargo from that Presidency might be ordered to call at the different Subordinates to the Northward for the Allotments to be furnished from each, but as this would detain her in India two or three months, and reduce her to that situation which we wished to prevent, we made no Alteration in the Resolution we have already noticed, and gave Orders for her proceeding directly to Madras, believing that the Ship would be nearly, if not intirely, supplied with the whole of her Tonnage after receiving a Lading here and providing for the Supernumeraries and Invalids she would accommodate from the Coast we will concert with the Governor in Council at Fort St. George the best and earliest means of dispatch by the Goods that are ready at the Subordinates.

61. In Consequence of the Lateness of the Receipt of some of the materials for forming the Invoice of the Atlas's Cargo, there was not Time sufficient for its being examined; and, some errors having been since discovered in it, a corrected Copy with an Abstract has been prepared, and is transmitted by the Rodney. In this Invoice a further Alteration has been made by including in the Cost of the Spices shipped on the Atlas a Loss arising on the sale of some Cloves which Mr. Prager informed the Board of Trade that he was compelled to take in part of his Purchase, but which, an unprofitable Article, have since by his Recommendation been disposed of at Public Auction. Of course the Loss upon them is so much added to the Cost of the Spices sent home.

62. We received by the Ranger your General Letters dated the 31st July 1787 with the several Papers specified in the Lists of Packet. These were distributed as usual, and your Dispatches for Fort Marlbro' were forwarded to that Residency. On the 25th Ultimo we passed Resolutions upon the different Paragraphs of your Letter to us. Copies of them are transmitted in the Rodney's Packet. We shall avail ourselves of a future Occasion to reply more fully to such Parts of your Orders as are not comprehended in them, for the early Departure of this Ship (to save the Charter Party Time of Dispatch) prevents us from entering upon the Subjects so fully as we wish.

63. The Accountant General having represented to us the Peculiarity of his Situation, while his Salary has been restricted to the Amount prescribed by your Orders of the 11th April 1785, and having solicited that, upon the Grounds stated in a Letter which he has

addressed to us, he may receive the Difference between what has been drawn by the Accountant—General to the Revenue Department and himself during that Period, we have readily complied with his Request so far as to transmit a Copy of his Letter a Number in the Packet, and we beg leave to recommend his Case and Situation to your most favorable Consideration.

64. Our annual Sett of Proceedings in this Department for the year 1787, with Index, Our Proceedings for February 1788 with its Index, and the Index to our Consultations in January are forwarded in the Rodney, with a Copy of a Letter from the Board of Trade relative to your Commercial Affairs at this Presidency.

65. We transmit to you in the same Packet Copy of a Letter from Mr. Joseph Price, explaining the Means he possesses and intends to pursue to make good his Remittances to Canton as Cons. 13th Feby. advised in our General Letter per Atlas (Pars. 19 & 20). Satisfied with those Means, and having great Confidence in the Integrity of Captain Price, we have issued the Certificates engaged for to the amount of three Lacs of Current Rupees.

66. This Source of Supply to your Supra Cargoes, in Addition to our former Engagements, makes a Remittance of Thirteen Lacs to Canton for the Provision of next year's Investment, besides the Sum of Ct. Rs. 3,60,000 to be ultimately paid there on the same Account in Liquidation of Bills drawn on the Government General [sic] of Batavia by the Director and Council at Chinsura in Adjustment of the Account between them and us.

67. And, independent of these Remittances to China, we have been induced, from a View to afford every possible Assistance to your Supra Cargoes, to accede to some Proposals tendered by Mr. George Smith upon Terms which do not subjected [sic] the Company to any Risque and rather more advantageous than the others as to the Rate of Exchange. Mr. Smith's Letter and our Proceedings upon it attend you in the Packet.

68. The Success of his Plan depends chiefly upon his private Influence with the Merchants of Canton, by whom he is to be furnished with Teas to be delivered to your Supra Cargoes, and subject, as far as regards the Company, to the approval of the Supra Cargoes both as to Quality and Price. For the Value of the Teas so received Mr. Smith is to accept Bills upon us at the Exchange of  $37\frac{1}{2}$  Spanish Dollars for 100 Current Rupees, or whatever may be the Exchange of the Season The Bills are to be paid by us at 30 Days Sight, or entered upon the General Register, as may be most convenient to our Treasury; and he is to draw the following Commission upon them, and upon such Amounts as he may pay to the Supra Cargoes in money.

2½ per Cent : on the first 3 Lacks.

2 Per Cent : on the next 2 Lacks.

and

1½ per Cent : on the next 5 Lacks.

His supplies for the next Season are limited to 10 Lacks of Current Rupees.

69. Our Supplies to Prince of Wales Island for the last 9 months amount to 1,65,327.14.1. This Settlement is in a flourishing Condition, and we hope will be made productive to the Company, as a Medium of supply to Canton.

70. The Resolutions we passed on the Correspondence between your Board of Trade and Mr. Prager, produced a Letter from that Gentleman in which he desired to resign his Office of Inspector, and purchaser of Drugs, and entered into a further Explanation of his Assertion with regard to the Indigo Contracts of last Year His Resignation was of course accepted, and his Explanations respecting the Indigo Contracts having been fully examined, we recorded our Opinion that his Insinuations were groundless and unjustifiable.

71. The Correspondence with Mr. Prager subsequent to that transmitted to you by the Atlas is forwarded in the Rodney's Packet. We are happy to observe that our Proceedings upon the Expectations of this Gentleman are entirely supported by your Orders communicated on the Ranger's Letter.

72. A copy of the Instructions given to Mr. Leoyd on his Commercial Deputation to Benares, advised per Britannia attends you in the Packet. We refer them to your Notice as containing a complete Relation of the Object desired to be obtained by this Commission (which we consider as experimental rather than certain as to its Effects) and of the Means of accomplishing it.

73. Mr. Boyce having given his full and unqualified assent to the Promulgation of his opinions with respect to an Improvement in the mode of Manufacturing Indigo, we have recorded the whole of his letter on the subject, and published that Part of it which was intended for General use.

74. If the Suggestions of Mr. Boyce should be found verified upon Trial, we shall desire him entitled to a Compensation from the Company for the Benefit they will derive from them; but of this great Doubts are at present entertained.

75. An Application was lately made to us by Mr. Keighly for Permission to proceed to Europe<sup>1</sup> on the Princess Amelia, and besides the Grounds which he urged for our Compliance with it as far as regarded legal Right, his request was supported, upon the situation of his Health, by the Surgeons who attended him. We were well disposed to shew every Indulgence to Mr. Keighly that was consistent with our duty, but as we found upon a Reference to the Advocate General that it could not be granted with Safety to the Company's Interests, we were obliged to refuse it.

76. We forward to you by the Rodney Office of the Answers of Messrs. Baretto and Fergusson and of Mootor Bysaack, three of the

Defendants in the suit instituted by the Company against Mr. Barton, Mr. Blaquiere, and others,<sup>2</sup> Sellers of ready-made Goods.

77. Mr. Barton having absconded to a Foreign Settlement after having appeared to this Suit, and before he had put in his Answer, the Necessary Steps have been taken by the Company's Attorney to obtain a siquestration [sic] against his Effects, and to obtain an Ex Parte Decree against him.

78. Mr. Henchman has applied by Petition to the Supreme Court<sup>3</sup> through his Attorney, to appeal to his Majesty in Council against the Order made on the 27th of November last, allowing the Exceptions filed to his Answer in the Cause instituted by the Company against him and Mr. Barton, and Messrs. Mure and Mee have entered into a Recognizance for abiding by the appeal and for the Payment of all such Costs as may be incurred (in the Event of the Order being affirmed) and awarded against him.

79. Intimation has been so lately given of Mr. Henchman's Intention to appeal that it is impossible to obtain Office Copies of the Proceedings in time to be dispatched by the Rodney, but they have been bespoke [sic] from the Public Office, and will be forwarded to you by the first Opportunity that may offer after we received them.

80. Mr. Jacob Rider's Answer to the amended Bill filed against him<sup>4</sup> on Account of his Silk Contract was transmitted to you by the Busbridge All further Proceedings in that suit are suspended, at the Recommendation of the Advocate General, until it shall be known whether you think it advisable to prosecute the Enquiry at home of Messrs. Wiss, Pictet, and Aldersey, who are now in England, and the only Persons, at this distant Period, who are likely to make such Discovery as will enable the Company, if entitled to recover any thing from Mr. Rider, to prosecute the suit against him with Effect here.

Consn. 29th Feby.

81. Mr. Rider, in his Answer to the Bill, in which he is joined with Messrs. Barton and Keighly, acknowledges that he received from the latter the Sum of Ct. Rs. 3,087-12 and Offers to refused [return] the Amount; but as it is undoubtedly your Intention to call on the late Members of the Board of Trade for an Account of the Money they had collusively received from every other Contractor as well as Mr. Keighly, we have not thought ourselves at Liberty to confine the Proceedings of Mr. Rider to the Circumstances of that Contract only; and therefore directed your Advocate General to demand an Account of what Mr. Rider may have received, whilst a Member of the Board of Trade, from any Contractors besides Mr. Keighly; and in the Event of his refusing to furnish such Account voluntarily, and to pay the amount, we shall order an Amendment of the Bill now depending against him and Messrs. Barton and Keighly so as to produce a more general Discovery against the Defendants.

82. Mr. John Gilchrist having represented to us that he is considerably embarassed in his endeavours to complete the literary Publication he engaged in, of a Dictionary of the Hindoo Language, and having requested to transfer the Subscription (to his understanding)

Consn. 13th Feby. that was ordered to be contributed to Captain Kirkpatrick's which has been lately relinquished, we have agreed, in Consideration of the Utility of the Work, to assist him with one half of the Amount in addition to our former Subscription.

### Revenue Department

83. We transmit by the Rodney the Annual Set of our Proceedings in this Department in the year 1787 and the broken Set of our Consultations in the month of February 1788 with Index and Appendix to both and the other Papers enumerated in the List of Packet.

84. We have the honour to reply to your Revenue Letter dated 31st July 1787 and received P. Ranger (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The Book of Establishments transmitted to you by the Rodney will shew that on the 30th April 1787 the Established Charges defrayed from the Reve. Dept. amounted to Sa. Rs. 70,59,533.6.16.3. but these Charges include the expences of the Salt Department, Salt Petre, and Opium Amounting to Sa. Rs. 5,70,194.10.4 which were not passed within the Description of Revenue Expences limited by your Orders of the 11th April 1785 to Sa. Rs. 72,000.00 Exclusive therefore of the Expences of the Salt Department, Salt Petre and Opium the established Charges of the Revenue Department on the 30th April 1787 did not exceed Sa. Rs. 64,89,338.12.12

Consn. 25th Feby. We believe that the Revenue Expences not Specified by the term "Established Charges" amount to only a small Sum; but we have directed Inquiry to be made into it, and shall Acquaint you with the Result In the mean time you may be assured that every practicable Retrenchment of Charges in the Revenue Department has been attended to.

85. (8) As a Copy of the Work mentioned in Mr. Malet's Letter to Sir John Macpherson dated 24th April 1786 is not upon Record, we have desired Mr. Malet to furnish us with another Copy of it to be transmitted to you according to your desire.

86. (10). We have communicated this Para to the Board of Revenue and shall keep you advised, as you direct, of Mr. Prager's Success in Cultivating the Lands allotted to him  
Do. We shall also deliver our Opinion upon the other Subject of Inquiry, whether his Operations have been the means of increasing the general Amount of the Purnea Collections as they stood in June 1782.

87. (11). We have Acquainted the Executors of Mr. Clevlands will with your Attention to the Claim preferred in behalf of his Heirs for Expences he incurred while Collector of Boglepore on account of Building and other Articles relative to the Corps of Hill Archers amounting to Rs. 9784.8.4 and in consequence of your Instructions we have ordered payment of this Sum.

88. (12,13). We transmitted Copies of these Paragraphs to the Board of Revenue, to the Accomptant General, and the Accomptant

General to the Revenue Department with Orders to be particularly attentive to the Remarks and Instructions contained in them. A Letter which we have received from the Accountant General to the Revenue Department on the subject of these Paragraphs is transmitted a number in the Packet.

89. We have the Honour to forward to you Copies of two Minutes delivered by Mr. Shore on the Rights of Zemindars, Talookdars and Jaigheerdars, with the Appendixes referred to in them. The short Time which has passed since these Papers were completed has not admitted of our considering them at the Board.

90. We also send a Number in this Dispatch a Volume containing Copy of a Letter which has been addressed to us by Mr. James Grant, Chief Sheristadar, with an "Historical and Comparative view of the Revenues of Bengal under established practical forms of rating and levying the public assessment Annually in the Detail of Provincial and Actual Zemindarry Divisions of the Soubah."

91. This work has been transmitted to us so lately that we have not had any leisure to peruse it, or to consider the propositions Stated in Mr. Grant's Letter.

#### Benares

92. The Resident at Benares, in virtue of Authorities which he received from us, has established an Adawlut for the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice at Ghazeepoor, and is proceeding to Establish Courts upon similar principles at Mirzapoor and Juanpore other principal Towns in the Zemindarry, His Communications to us upon this Subject and our Answers are recorded on our Proceedings of the 29th February.

#### Salt

93. In the Proceedings referred to in the Margin you will observe a Petition from the purchasers of Salt at the Sales of the 28th December 1787. It was grounded principally on our Advertisement of the 16th January 1788, which declared our Intention to relieve the Distress suffered by the Natives of the Country from the High price of Salt by ordering another Sale on the 1st of Consn. 15th Feby. March so that the quantity in the Market might be increased, and, if this should not be found effectual to lower the price of Salt to the Consumer, to take such other measures as we might judge necessary for that purpose. The Petition stated that this Advertisement operated in its Consequences to prevent their Sale at any rate of the Salt which they bought, and Solicited a Compensation for their Disappointment, and it was proposed to make this Compensation by ordering a resale of the Salt which had been sold on the 28th December.

94. There was reason to suppose a Combination among those Merchants to Monopolize the Salt by an Extravagant Offer for the purchase of it to the Exclusion of others willing to bid a reasonable price, and for their own Separate and exclusive advantage in the

Subsequent Disposal of a necessary of life so indispensable to the Natives.

95. The Petitioners were acquainted in Answer to their Memorial, that they were expected to clear out by the fixed periods the Salt which they had purchased, and that in default thereof, it would be resold when, if the Amount Sales should exceed that of their Deposits, the difference would be paid to them out of the Sum received and their Deposits would be returned but, if the Amount Sales should be less than that of their Deposits, they must Account to the Company for the difference before the Deposits would be given back.

96. According to the Advertizement of the 16th January there was a Sale of Salt on the 1st of March which produced upon a Medium 295 Sa. Rs. 1 Per % Maunds or Sa. Rs. 325.6.1 Per % Maunds below the Medium of the Sales on the 28th December.

97. We have the Satisfaction to add that the Price of Salt in the Market is now become moderate, and we have no doubt that by adhering firmly to the fair and equitable Plan of a Public Sale of that Article in moderate Lots, we shall prevent any similar attempts to increase the public Distress.

### Opium

98. A Quantity of Patna Opium consisting of two hundred and Seventy three Chests recovered from the Contractors Boats that were wrecked on the Cossimbuzar River in the Storm of the 2d. November last was sold on the 18th of February, with one Lot forfeited by the default of the first purchaser at the Sales of the 6th December and produced on a Medium 540 ct. Rs. 2a. 18g. per Chest.

### Poolbundy

99. The State of the Pools in Burdwan having been represented to us requiring particular Attention, and the Pools [requiring] considerable repair owing to the Inundations during the last Rainy Season, we directed the Board of Revenue to call upon the Raja to continue the Repairs of the Pools, and in Order to provide for the Speedy and effectual observance of this Injunction, we have appointed, Mr. Thomas Marriott, who usually resides at Burdwan to be Superintendant of the Poolbundy. The Raja is to supply the necessary materials, and the Application of them is to be directed by Mr. Marriott who is also to take particular Accounts of the Expences incurred by the Raja in the work.

100. Upon the Accounts furnished by Mr. Marriott of the Expences we shall be enabled to judge how the Raja is entitled to any Compensation in Addition to the sum of sixty thousand Rupees allowed him for the Annual Repairs of the Pools Mr. Marriotts Allowance, while employed on the temporary Service we have mentioned is 500. Rupees P. Month.

## Miscellaneous Occurrences

101. We informed you in our Letter of the 28th July last per Ravensworth that we had appointed Messrs. C. Burrowes and Thos. Brooke to investigate the Mode of Manufacturing Salt in the District of Roymungul, and inquire into several Complaints which had been made to the Governor General of Oppressions committed on the Molungees and others employed in the Salt business. The Commissioners have delivered in their Report of a long and laborious Investigation upon the Subjects of their Commission, which we have dissolved intending to consider their Report as soon as we have leisure for that purpose.

102. Mr. George Shee has resigned the Office of Judge of the Adawlut at Dacca and with it your Service in order to proceed to Europe for the Settlement of his Affairs. Mr. Shee has held the Office of Judge for some years, and his conduct in that Capacity entitles him to our Approbation, and Recommendation of his Services.

## Appointments

103. The Following Appointments have taken place in the Revenue Department since our last Advices.

Thos. Marriott Superintendant of the  
Pools at Burdwan .....15th February.

Robert Bruce Surgeon at Benares.....—,—  
Abraham Welland 2d. Asstt. to the

Collr. of Shawabad ..... 29th Do.

104. States of the General and Khalsa Treasuries are transmitted to you Nos. in the Packet.

Fort William  
6th March 1788.  
[Pr. Rodney]

We have the Honor to be,  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your most faithful,  
Humble Servants,

## LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1788

*Ampler powers demanded for dealing with law and order situation in Calcutta town—imperative need for a legal police establishment and judicial reforms to deal speedily with minor cases, civil and criminal—proposal to control liquor business in Calcutta—exact boundaries*

*of Calcutta town to be defined—need for amending admiralty jurisdiction of the Supreme Court—need of law for relief of insolvent debtors—extension of laws to Penang and other similar settlements.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Para 1. The many Evils and Abuses existing in the Town of Calcutta for which no suitable Remedy can be provided under the Powers which this Government, either solely or in Conjunction with the Supreme Court of Judicature, possesses, requiring the Interposition of the British Legislature, We are induced to solicit your Application to His Majesty's Ministers and to the Parliament for the Purpose of obtaining a delegation of more ample powers to enable us, with the Concurrence and approbation of the Supreme Court of Judicature, to reform the Existing Evils, and to make Laws and Ordinances for their prevention and suppression in future.

2. It is proper to inform you that, as a preliminary step to this application, We have held several Conferences with His Majesty's Judges, whose Advice and Assistance we have availed ourselves of with respect both to the Application generally & to the terms in which it is now made.

3. The very populous state of Calcutta, the Capital of your possessions in Bengal, is well known to you. The Inhabitants consist of a variety of sects and Countries, comprizing Natives of every part of Europe, Portuguese Christians born in Asia,—Armenians, Greeks—Parsees, Mahomedans,—and Hindoos; and, at particular Seasons, the number is greatly increased by the Arrival of Vessels belonging to Foreign States or Individuals of Europe, Asia, & America.

4. At present, there is no legal Police for this Town. The functions of that Office are discharged by two persons under the Title of Superintendants of the Police, and the absolute necessity of an Establishment of this nature has compelled us to continue it; but the Officers, Acting without any legal Sanction or authority, are not only amenable to the Supreme Court of Judicature but punishable by it for every exercise of power, however just and proper in itself, and however essential to the safety of the Inhabitants and security of their property.

5. The Original Establishment of this Court may be traced to the Old Jurisdiction of the Zemindarry Cutcherry<sup>1</sup> which exercised a Power of hearing and deciding Summarily Causes both of a Civil and Criminal Nature. These Functions are now under certain limitations Exercised by the Officers of the Police, in a mode not consonant to the Laws of England and only justifiable upon the principles of absolute necessity.

6. This necessity arises from two Causes;

7. 1st From the small number of Magistrates, who, under the present Laws, are able to Exercise a legal authority in Calcutta, and

are on this Account inadequate to Hearing and Deciding the numerous Complaints which daily call for their Interposition.

8. There is but one Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in Calcutta which exercises its Functions, and that only at two Seasons of the Year. It is true that the Governor General and Members of the Supreme Council are empowered to hold Quarterly Sessions; but the variety of their Important Occupations not only precludes the Exercise of this Power but renders it impossible for them to discharge their Functions of Justices of the Peace. This Duty is therefore solely performed by his Majesty's Judges, and is an Encroachment upon their time, and an accumulation of Labour to their Duties in the Supreme Court of Judicature, from which they ought in Reason to be exempted, whilst, after all, the power of a Justice of the Peace solely is inadequate to the Correction of Evils Existing.

9. 2dly. The incompetency of the Court of Requests<sup>2</sup> to Discharge the duties required of [sic].

10. This Incompetency arises from the following circumstances;

11. The Limitation which Restricts the Cognizance of causes in this Court to suits only for a sum not exceeding Forty shillings, or twenty Rupees.

12. And the imperfection of the Institution. The Members composing this Court are selected from the Junior Servants of the Company, most of whom hold other Offices, and, receiving no pay or Salary for their trouble and attendance, have little Inducement to undertake the laborious duties of this Court, or to discharge them with the assiduity required. In fact we may affirm, without any reflection upon the Members now composing it, that the Institution has never been treated as either serious or Important.

13. An attention to the Evils which we have stated suggests an obvious and natural remedy, perfectly consonant with the Laws and constitution of England; The Increase of the Number of Magistrates in One hand, and the Extention and Emendation of the Institution of the Court of Requests on the other. If the former be adopted, Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction may be oftener held, and the Interposition of the legal powers of a Justice of the Peace may take place daily and regularly to the Advantage of the Community in General. If the latter be complied with, and competent Salaries be allowed to the Members of the Court of Requests, the Inhabitants in General will have easy access to Justice, in causes of trifling value, without being burthened with the expence of suits in the Supreme Court of Judicature; and these two points being established the Police of the Town will be gradually and sensibly improved.

14. The sum to which we would propose to limit the power of distributing Justice in the Court of Requests is 100 Sicca Rupees and perhaps the Legislature might not think it proper to entrust the decision of Questions respecting greater Demands to persons whose services can be obtained in this country for moderate Salaries yet we think it is to be wished that causes of small value,\* though

exceeding the sum we have mentioned, could be tried with less trouble and expence to the parties than must be incurred by a suit at Law in the Ordinary forms; And the Judges of the Supreme Court, concurring with us in this Opinion, have declared their readiness to Establish, if they shall be thereto empowered by Parliament, a Summary mode of Trial for debts, and some species of Contracts, and Civil Injuries, where the demand does not exceed 300 Sicca Rupees, nearly similar to what is called Trial by Civil Bill by the Justices of Assize in Ireland. It is proposed that such Causes be tried and determined by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court each of whom shall in his turn, according to such Rotation, on such Days and at such seasons as shall from time to time be settled by Order of the Supreme Court, hold a Court for the Trial of Actions by Civil Bill. As the Supreme Court of Judicature now sits during the greatest part of the year, it may probably be found convenient that the Court for trial for Civil Bill should be sometimes held, when the Supreme Court is also sitting, but when the presence of all the Judges is not thought necessary. It will therefore be proper to declare that it shall be lawful for the Judge, whose turn it shall be, to hear, and determine Trials by Civil Bill at any time when he shall be required so to do by order of the Supreme Court although the said Supreme Court should at the same time be sitting.

15. The Powers given by the Statute, of the 13th of George 3d. Chapter 63<sup>rd</sup>, to the Governor General and Council of making Rules, Ordinances and Regulations for the good Government of the Town of Calcutta with the Concurrence of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature is inapplicable to the propositions which we recommend; and we find an equal difficulty in availing ourselves of them to form any By Law for the Regulation of the Police of the Town under the Restrictive Clause that it shall not be repugnant to the Laws of the Realm.—To give Efficacy to such a Regulation, under the Circumstances stated, the Officer or Officers of the Police must be Invested with a Discretionary power of Summary Decision such a Power is repugnant to the Laws; And to the Delegation of such power unless by authority of Parliament another objection arises, tha[t] a Bye Law proposed on this principle, has once been rejected by his Majesty. The proposals now offered are free from this objection, and, although doubts should be entertained of their Efficacy for the purposes wanted, they have still this obvious advantage that they propose the Establishment of a legal power where none already exists;—and so far a considerable Advantage is gained.

16. With respect to Justices of [the] Peace, we beg leave to suggest that the Appointment of them should rest with the Governor General in Council; and our intention is that they should be selected from the Servants of the Company and principal Inhabitants of Calcutta of the most respectable Character for abilities and Integrity [.] We conceive that many objections occur to their nomination in England. If they should be sent out with Appointments of Justices of the Peace, Salaries must be given to them, and, if appointed in England from the Residents in India, an objection arises from the difficulty of forming, at that distance a true judgement of the Characters of

Individuals in this Country, and their competency for the Office of Justices. This must be best known to the Government here, who are also acquainted with the business of the British subjects residing in Calcutta. We are likewise of Opinion, that the Appointment should be annual only; for the Company's Servants in Calcutta are generally liable to a change of Residence from their nomination to distant Stations.

17. There is an abuse of so great Magnitude existing in and about this Presidency, and so pernicious in its consequences to society, and more particularly to the Discipline of your Army, that we deem it necessary to state it for your more direct Information; that such authorities as we have now desired or some other express powers may be obtained for the correction of it.—The Evil we allude to is the great number of Houses in which spirituous Liquors and particularly that species of it known by the name of "Country Arrak" is Retailled, to the Injury of the Morals and health of the people. By the Mohommedan & Hindoo Laws the use of this Liquor is prohibited: It does not, however, appear that any Power of sufficient Efficacy exists for the suppression of this abuse, for although the Judges of His Majesty's Court would chearfully join with us in passing a Bye Law for that purpose, the powers instituted by such an Act of authority would Not prove sufficient, and could go no further than to authorize Prosecutions against the venders of the liquors a mode of process too tedious and expensive for the Government, which, in that Case, must stand forth as Prosecutor to undertake the Suits considering this point as most essential to the due Regulation of the Police of the Natives, We are anxious to obtain powers for Regulating & Licensing Houses where Liquor shall be sold in Retail for suppressing them by authority, under penalties to be levied by Distress and Sale. We conceive that no material objection can arise to this proposition, when the circumstances in which it is founded are considered, and this is one of the Chief objects we have in view in desiring an Extension of our power to make Bye Laws.

18. The necessity of appointing a Coroner for the Town of Calcutta and the limits thereof, with such legal and Judicial powers as are exercised by Coroners in the respective countries in England is also apparent; and it may be convenient to provide that the Office of Coroner of Calcutta shall not be incompatible with that of a Justice of the Peace.

19. Another point which we deem necessary to mention relates to the limits of Calcutta. There is great difficulty in tracing the Old Limits of the Town; and the description of them, as given by Individuals, or ascertained by the Records, is subject to doubts which render the limits uncertain. We think it would be adviseable to fix the Boundaries anew, so as to comprehend a number of new Edifices which properly form a part of the Town of Calcutta but concerning which Doubts have of late years been made, whether the ground on which they stand be within the Limits of the Town & the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or not.

20. We wish therefore that the Boundaries, so far as they can be clearly described by Metes & Marks now visible, should be

ascertained, and declared by Parliament, and that, in one Place, where we think a small addition to the Extent of the Town necessary in order to include the General Hospital the Act of Parliament should empower us, with the Approbation of the Supreme Court, to define and fix the Limits by such visible Metes & Bounds.

21. The description which we propose to you to have inserted in the act of Parliament is as follows.—

22. That the Town of Calcutta be bounded on the Northside thereof by a line commencing at a point on the West side of the River Houghly exactly opposite to the Mouth of the Brook called Chitpoor Nulla, or Baug Bazar Nulla, which line being drawn across the River from the aforesaid point to the mouth of the said Brook or Nulla shall be continued to the Eastward along the North side of the said Nulla to the North end of the Bridge called Chitpoor Bridge, and so on Eastward along the said Nulla and the Marhatta Entrenchment till the said Entrenchment turns towards the South;

23. That the Boundary of the said Town on the East side thereof be a line which shall be drawn along the said Marhatta Entrenchment and the Road adjoining to the same, so far as the remains of the said Entrenchment are visible by the side of the said Road leading towards the south, and which shall then be continued to the Southward along the said Road leaving on the west side thereof, & thereby including within the limits of Calcutta, the Protestant Burying Ground, Chouringhee, & the Lands thereto belonging as well as the Land formerly belonging to Henry Vansittart Esqr. President of Fort William & so still, continued to the southward until the said Road turns towards the West, leaving Arapokar on the South East & begins to lead towards Chucker Bun.

24. That the Boundary of the said Town on the South side thereof be a line drawn Westward along the said last mentioned Road from the place where it turns towards the west to the North west corner of the Grounds called Chucker Bun and then continued to the Westward, with a little Inclination to the south, till such Line meets the Govindpore Nullah, otherwise called Tolleys Nullah; the said line to be so drawn as to include the General Hospital within the limits of Calcutta and to exclude the Temple of Kaly at Kalygaut and the adjoining Hamlet;—and that the said Boundary line be further continued along the said Nullah until it enters the River, and then from East to West directly across the River to a point on the West side thereof exactly opposite to the Mouth of Tolleys Nullah before mentioned.

25. And lastly that the western Boundary of the said Town shall be the high Water mark on the West side of the River.

26. The great Number of Foreign Ships & Vessels which come to this port would render it difficult for the Judges of the Supreme Court & the other Magistrates of the Town to exercise such a controul as is necessary for the due preservation of Peace unless the Crews of such Ships & Vessels, by this Discription of the jurisdiction of the Magistracy be declared to be within that jurisdiction.

27. We propose that the foregoing Discription be in general enacted by Parliament, but that, to prevent any possible Inaccuracy in a measure of such consequence we should be empowered to ascertain & fix by an Ordinance the Boundaries in any Part where the Foregoing Discription shall be found vague & uncertain and particularly to form & establish by some visible Metes and Bounds the line which is to be drawn from the northwest Point of Chucker Bun to Tolley's Nullah so as to include the General Hospital.

28. The judges of the Supreme Court have suggested a necessity for making considerable alterations in the admiralty [sic] Jurisdiction granted to the Court by His Majesty's Charter of 1774, the terms in which that Jurisdiction is conveyed having rendered the Exercise of it of little Service we shall first explain the defects which we think require correction, and then suggest the means which occur to us for that purpose.

29. The Charter expresses that the Supreme Court of Judicature shall be a Court of Admiralty for the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, & Orissa and all other Territories and Islands adjacent thereto and which are or ought to be dependant thereon, for the Trial of Civil and Maritime Causes within the Ebbing and flowing of the Tide and High Water mark through the Provinces and Islands above described in the same manner as the Admiralty Jurisdiction is exercised in that part of Great Britain called England.

30. By the same Charter Criminal Jurisdiction is granted empowering the Court to try all treasons, Murders, piracies, Robberies and other offences committed within the same limits, and by a Proviso this Admiralty Jurisdiction, is further limited to extend only to British Subjects and to Servants of the Company and Servants of British Subjects.

31. A reference to the terms of the Charter will be more satisfactory than this Abstract It affords a sufficient foundation however for the following observations.

32. 1st. That the limits of the Jurisdiction are too confined to admit of its being exercised with utility and 2dly that there is no express authority to give judgement of Death, and to proceed to execution in Capital Crimes, although the Charter proceeds to direct Fines to be levied and other Judgements not Capital to be carried into execution.

33. His Majesty by his Charter granted in the first Year of his Reign Vizt. on the 13th March 1761 was pleased to grant a power to the then President & Council and His Majestys Admirals Captains of Ships and others, not less than seven in Number, to try Pyracies. It has been doubted whether this Commission is still in force, and whether the like authority still continues in the Governor General & Council & such others as, according to that Charter, they shall call to their Assistance: But if the Authority does continue it does not seem very convenient or proper.—

34. We shall now state the Regulations necessary in our Judgement to give to the Judges a proper & useful Jurisdiction in admiralty cases.

35. 1st. That a power be given by act of Parliament to the Supreme Court of Judicature to try all such Treason, Murders, Peracies [sic] Robberies, and other offences which are usually punished Capitally by Maritime Law as shall be committed within the Limits of the Company's Trade on the High Seas or within the Ebbing & flowing of the Sea in or upon any Navigable River in whatsoever Country or Dominion the same may be within the above limits, by British subjects or others; That the Tryal be by a Jury of British Subjects with a power to Summon a Jury *de Medietate Lingua* when allowable by Law.

36. 2dly. That the Supreme Court of Judicature be authorized to try Prize causes; and that for this purpose, such an alteration be made in the Constitution of the Court as the Laws and Treaties in Force may require, such right of Appeal being given as may be Consistent with those Laws and Treaties.

37. 3dly. That the power of giving Judgement of Death and of proceeding to Execution in Maritime Capital Causes be clearly authorized and Expressed.

38. Our next purpose in this address to your Honorable Court is to obtain a Law for the relief of Insolvent Debtors. The Mischief proposed to be remedied by such a Law is not confined to Calcutta but extends to all persons who are subject to the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. As the Law stands at present, insolvent persons who have the misfortune to be Imprisoned at the Suit of an obdurate Creditor under process of the Supreme Court must remain in prison for life; there being no power in this Country which can possibly extricate them if the Creditor refuses to assent to their discharge. To relieve all persons who may have the misfortune to fall into this Situation a perpetual Law is wanting, by which insolvent Persons confined for debt under process of the Supreme Court or of the Court of Requests on giving up their property upon Oath for the general benefit of all their Creditors under Similar Regulations & subject to the like penalties in case of fraud or concealment as insolvent Debtors are rendered liable to in England by the occasional acts passed for their relief, should be entitled to be discharged from Custody & exonerated from all their debts.

39. The Power of discharging the Insolvent Debtor under the Conditions we have stated should be vested we think in the Supreme Court of Judicature except in cases where the Debtor has been imprisoned by a Judgement of the Court of Requests for debts not exceeding one hundred Rupees, in which Cases we are of Opinion that the Court of Requests should have a Concurrent authority with the Supreme Court in discharging the Insolvent Debtor.

40. The only subject not yet mentioned among those which we proposed to submit to your consideration in this Letter is that of providing some mode or system for trying & punishing Offences

committed on Prince of Wales Island as well by Natives of Asia settled there as by British and other Mariners & Traders resorting to the Port. We have specified Prince of Wales Island particularly, but it might be convenient that the Law which authorizes a proper administration of Justice in that Country should extend its provisions to any other new Settlements that may hereafter be made in any of the Ports or Islands in the Bay of Bengal or to the Eastward.

41. We have not any exact Account of the Number of British Inhabitants and others residing upon Prince of Wales Island; but we know that the Native Settlers are already very numerous and some of them of Tribes remarkable for their turbulent & sanguinary Disposition; & we understand that the Number of Native Inhabitants in general becomes daily greater; while we have not regular means of punishing any offences committed there which must be expected to increase with the Increase of the people.

42. If you should concur with us in the propriety of the several proposals offered to your consideration we request that the application to his Majesty's Ministers and to the Parliament may be made with all convenient Expedition. In order to assist the Law Officers to whom the Consideration of the Application will of course be referred, we wished to transmit to you by this Packet the Sketch of a Bill to be submitted after Emendation to the Judgement of the Legislature; but the Indisposition of your Advocate General, in whose Province it lies to direct the formation of the Bill, and the time limited for the dispatch of the Rodney oblige us to give up the intention of forwarding it by this conveyance. It will be transmitted to you by the next; but, as that may not offer for some Months, we hope that the Lights already furnished in this address upon the subject of it will enable the Law Officers at home to proceed in forming the Bill without waiting for the outlines of it proposed to be sent from this Country.

43. When the Powers we have solicited are granted We shall proceed to the Appointment of Ministerial Officers for the proper objects of the Police vizt. for guarding & watching the Town, for apprehending Offenders against the Peace, Vagabonds, & disorderly persons under the authority allowed by the Laws At present Calcutta exhibits a singular instance of a great Capital without any legal police whilst the Foreign Settlements in Bengal, Acting upon the principles of the old Zemindarry Jurisdiction, have Established regulations for the preservation of Order in their respective Settlements which We under the restriction of the Laws are precluded from accomplishing.

We have the Honor to be,  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your most faithful  
Humble Servants.

Fort William  
6th March 1788.  
[Endorsement]

(Signed, {  
Cornwallis  
John Shore  
Charles Stuart

Copy of Separate General Letter to the Court of Directors dated  
6th March 1788. Pr. Rodney.

RG.

LETTER DATED 5 JUNE 1788

*Government's connection with General Bank of India ended—Bengal revenue settlement in 1788 for one year only—preference to Company over private creditors in payments of debts of Nawa' of Carnatic.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para : 1. We judged it advisable to desire your Servants at Bombay to hold a Vessel in readiness to carry Dispatches to your Hon'ble Court and the Secret Committee as far as Bussorah, that they might be forwarded from thence to England and we  
 Pub. Deptt. recommended it to the Presidency of Fort St. George to dispatch whatever advices they might think of importance for your information about the beginning of this month that they may reach Bombay in time to proceed by the same conveyance.

2. The Barwell arrived at Fort St. George on the 5th ultimo and on the 21st We received your Dispatches dated the 21st Nov. which were brought to Madras by that Ship.

3. On the 31st March we took into consideration the Orders contained in your General Letter dated the 31st July 1787 concerning the liquidation of your Bonded and other debts by Bills upon the Court of Directors.

4. We agreed to the whole of the Governor Generals propositions upon this important subject; and instead of repeating those propositions. or the grounds upon which they were founded, We now inclose His Lordship's Minute that was laid before the Board, in which they are fully stated and discussed.

5. We dispatched the necessary Orders in due time to Fort St. George and Bombay, and having come to our resolutions, after very mature deliberation, we are willing to persuade ourselves that they will not be disapproved of by you, and that they will prove mutually advantageous to individuals and to the Company.

6. The Subscription to the Remittance was opened upon the 1st of this month, and the particulars of the Amount Subscribed to this Date are as follows.

Bengal proper Bonds subscribed . . . . .		14,55,482 . . . . .
„ Bonds for Madras Mily. Arrear Certificates	39,7020-4-3	1,76,510-3-10
„ Bombay Mily. Arrear Certificates By. Rs.	39862-12-28	82,062-9-10
Ct. Rs.		<hr/> 17,14,054-13-8

7. We think it necessary to inform you, that the Directors of the General Bank, upon a full consideration of their own interests thought it their duty to propose that it's connexion with Government, upon the present terms, should be dissolved, and the flourishing state of the public Credit, rendering it unnecessary for us to grant terms more advantageous than those that were originally settled, we made no difficulty in agreeing to their proposition; But as great inconvenience would have resulted from the payments of the loan precisely at the periods at which the different promissory Notes became due, we requested that they might continue with the Bank, until the Certificates granted as Collateral security for them, should fall in course of payment, and to compensate to the Bank for the delay, we agreed to allow an Interest of twelve P. Cent Pr. Annum which is the legal interest of the Country on the respective Sums that may not be paid when they fall due, until it comes to the turn of the Certificates to be discharged. The receipt of Bank notes at your Treasuries, the payment of your Registered Certificates thro' the medium of the Bank, in short, every transaction with it will cease as soon as the whole of the original loan shall be paid off or such part of it as remains unliquidated, shall commence to bear the Interest we have stated at 12 P Ct. Pr. Annum.

8. Our supplies to the Bombay Presidency have amounted in the last three months to 24,57,289. Ct. Rs. and as the whole surplus of the Benares and Bahar Revenues, after the discharge of the current claims, is to be appropriated in future, to the Service of Bombay, we trust that from time to time we shall find no difficulty in supplying the further necessities of that Presidency.

9. We have the pleasure to inform you that the distresses which have been suffered by the Scarcity of Grain, in different parts of the Country, and particularly at Dacca, have been of late much relieved, and we hope that in the course of a few months the favorable appearance of the new Crop, will justify us in taking off the Embargo on the exportation. The effect of the various Calamaties [sic] of the Season to seen [sic] your Revenues has been much less than We apprehended it would be. •

10. Reasons which will be detailed to you at length in our advices by the first sea Conveyance, have induced us to determine on a Settlement for one year only of the Bengal Revenues for the Bengal [Year] 1195 Commencing in April 1788.

11. We have almost finished the Review in which we have been engaged for some Months past of the different Offices and Establish-

ments under this Government, and many arrangements of a general as well as particular nature have taken place, which We trust will not only make some saving in the annual expence, but will tend most essentially to simplify and expedite all the branches of the public Business: the whole will be completed and transmitted to you in detail by the first sea Conveyance.

12. The Remonstrances made by a Committee of the Creditors of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic have occasioned Reference to us from the President in Council at Fort St. George, with an Application to consult his Majesty's Judges on some doubts which had arisen regarding the Payments to be made to the Creditors.

13. The Treaty concluded with the Nabob in June 1787 gave rise to these doubts, as by that the Contribution of his Highness for the Military Peace Establishment for the Defence of the Carnatic had been increased from four to Nine Lacs of Pagodas P Annum under the Stipulation expressed in the Agreement of 1785, that, if any Deficiency should take place in the Sums payable by the Nabob, it should be deducted from the Creditors proportion and not from the Company's. The Creditors, conceiving their Rights and property effected, remonstrated with great Intemperance, and claimed the full payment of the proportion of the 12 Lacs of Pagodas Stipulated in their favor whether the Company were paid or not, and supported their Pretensions principally upon the Grounds of your Orders, and upon the Agreement of 1785 which they deemed binding and conclusive.

14. From the Presidency of Fort St. George you will learn the particulars, which will also be hereafter Communicated to you by us We shall only therefore at this Time explain to you our Resolutions.

15. Before We acceded to the Application to Solicit the Opinion of his Majesty's Judges, we deemed it our duty to consider the questions proposed to be referred to them ourselves; and having formed our Opinions upon the whole, free from any doubt, We determined against any application to the Judges, on the principle that there could be no Obligation upon us to solicit Advice where we ourselves entertained no Doubts.

16. With respect to the questions agitated, our Determination is expressed in the following Summary of the Reasoning adopted.

17. That the Act of Parliament, when it directed the Establishment of a Fund for the discharge of the Demands of the Creditors,<sup>1</sup> made it subservient to the Rights of the Company, that the Rights of the Company are primarily and necessarily the safety and Protection of their Territories [sic] that the Court of Directors although they connected the Stipulation for the defence of the Carnatic, consider the latter as the Primary Obligation, to which in cases of necessity all others must give way; that the Agreement and Treaty concluded with the Nabob must be deemed one Instrument only, of which the former is the Commencement and the latter the Conclusion that the Treaty entered into is conformable to the Prescriptions of the Act, and to the Orders of the Court of Directors, and that it has been formed upon fair and equitable Principles, whether

considered relatively to the Contracting Parties or with regard to the Revenues of the Nabob. And upon these Grounds We deemed ourselves authorized to reject the exclusive Claims advanced by the Creditors, and refused to resign what by Law Equity and Propriety We considered to be the Rights of the Company, or in other words, to sacrifice the Funds granted for the Protection of the State to the Accommodation of the Creditors.

18. We have however Reason to conclude that the Funds of the Nabob are sufficient to Satisfy all demands upon him. That his Interests have been consulted on the Arrangement of 1787 is evident. The whole defence of the Carnatic now devolve[s] upon the Company, and the Nabob's Proportion of the General Contribution Amounts to 9. Lacs of Pagodas only, instead of eighteen Lacs, the Annual Amount of his Military expences before the last War.

19. As the Conduct of the Committee of Creditors Appeared to us highly intemperate and disrespectful to the Government under which they served, calculated to destroy the Subordination of the Service, throw a contempt upon the Government and embarrass it's Operations We have not hesitated to express our thorough Disapprobation of their Conduct, and to recommend to the Presidency of Fort. St. George to remove from their Stations those Servants who had joined in the Measures which we thought censurable submitting their Conduct to your particiular Notice.

We have the honor to be,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful,  
Humble Servants

Fort William,  
the 5th. June 1788

P.S. Since the above Letter was signed it has been stated to the Governor General in Council that the Subscribers of Bengal Bonds granted in discharge of the Military Arrears of the other Presidencies have withdrawn their Subscriptions on being informed that Bills could not be allowed at the Exchange of 1s/11d. Sterling for the sums in Current Rupees for which these Bonds were given.

Signed/—E. Hay.  
Secy. to the Govt.

[Overland]

## LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1788

*Review of various past methods of procuring investment—baneful effects of entrusting administrators with commercial duties—comparison of agency with contract method of providing investment and preferences to the former—specific commission to servants engaged in*

*providing investment—restricting Commercial Residents from private trade impracticable—the French not to be allowed to engage workers with prior commitments to the E.I. Company—reasons for procuring investment through establishments in the interior instead of purchasing it with ready money at Calcutta—production of raw silk possible in Bihar—possibilities regarding indigo trade—success of agency system in spite of many obstacles.*

**T**O Honble. The Court of Directors, for Affairs of the Honble. United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.  
Honble. Sirs.

1. The various abuses or defects which had long prevailed in the Commercial Department have deservedly attracted the serious notice and reprehension of your Honble. Court, I have, since my arrival in this Country, considered it as a duty peculiarly incumbent upon my station, to exert my utmost endeavours in co-operation with you, not merely to punish past misconduct or to apply temporary remedies to pressing evils, but to establish after mature deliberation, a System for the future provision of your Investments in Bengal upon such solid and satisfactory principles as may appear worthy of your giving it permanency, from its being well calculated to promote the general interests of the Company, as well as the internal order and prosperity of this Government.

2. Although I was sensible that from my former habits of life I must necessarily commence investigations of this nature under some disadvantage yet as I knew that it was in my power to obtain the willing assistance of several Gentlemen in the Commercial line<sup>1</sup> of strict honor and eminent ability, I was not discouraged from attempting to acquire a knowledge of the subject, sufficiently competent to enable me to make further progress this Season in correcting abuses that had existed and in maturing and establishing the plan to which I have alluded, for the future management of your Commercial affairs in these Provinces.

3. It has been my wish to comprize the result of all these enquiries and the arguments and considerations that have weighed with me in drawing my conclusions in as moderate a Compass as might be compatible with clear explanation; But as the subject is of great importance for the interests of the Company, and as I think it right to submit the different views in which I have examined it, and the grounds upon which my opinions have been founded, in the most open manner, to your Consideration, I have resolved to trust myself to Candor and indulgence for the appearance of prolixity, rather than by attempting conciseness, to incur the risk of doing you or myself the injustice of withholding any part of the information, which it is my intention to convey for the guidance of your judgement.

4. The multiplicity of other affairs which engaged my attention when the investment of last year was settled, and a partial preference given to the mode of Agency, obliged me to confine myself to a statement of such arguments only in favor of that mode as

seemed sufficient to shew the propriety of making the experiment proposing at a future time to exhibit more at large the considerations by which, after particular enquiry and discussion, I had then been swayed. I shall now proceed to execute this intention, at the same time to offer according to my promise the various other observations which have resulted from a further acquaintance with your Commercial Affairs.

5. In first entering into the respective merits of the modes of Agency and Contract, it seemed requisite to examine into past usages and the reasons of them.

6. I found, that in the earlier part of the Company's Establishment here, and until about the Year 1750, a mode of Contract, with certain Natives stiled, *Dadney Merchants* prevailed. From that time to the Year 1782, the more general mode was Agency, tho' the great branch of Raw Silk, from the introduction of the Italian method of winding in 1774 was furnished under the *Contract form*, and the Cloth Investment of the *Calcutta Aurungs* was about the Year 1776 put on the same footing. From 1782 to 1787 Contracts made upon Sealed proposals, invited from all descriptions of persons indiscriminately became universal.

7. The method followed in the first of these periods, seems to have suited well with a small and merely Commercial Establishment, under the power of an Arbitrary Government, and amongst a people little restrained by probity, to whose violence and fraud it was safest to oppose Natives who had become possessed of such opulence, under the shelter of the English Flag, as to be in that respect worthy of trust. And these were probably the same reasons that first recommended the use of the *Dadney Merchants*, and likewise continued long to operate in favor of the practice. Complaints at last prevailed that they furnished Goods of inferior quality at enhanced prices, and one reason assigned for their Conduct was that the Company's Imports which they usually received as part of their advances were no longer readily convertible into Money without loss. But this as well as the change in the Character of the fabrics, seems to have been the effect of a more general cause, perhaps not then fully perceived, the decay of the Commerce and Manufactures of Bengal from the Invasion of Nader Shaw, which loosening the Component parts of the Mogul Empire rendered their intercourse thenceforth more difficult, and from the usurpation of Aliverdi Khan and the subsequent Annual Invasions of the Mharattoes, that intercourse was still more interrupted and the internal Industry and Trade of the province disturbed, whence an unfavourable change must have been occasioned in the production and prices of Goods.

8. To the *Dadney Merchants* succeeded the Agency of Company's Servants in the Districts, with Native agents or *Gomastahs* under them. They had acted only a few Years when the troubles with *Surajah Doulah* broke out, but what I have been told of the quality and prices of Goods during that short period gives rather a favourable idea of it's Management. After the Revolution which put the Company in possession of the Government of the Country, altho' the same mode of provision still continued, it was no longer

Governed by a Commercial Principle. The remittance in Goods of the immense funds arising from the Territorial Revenue, became the main object of enquiry and care, and to attain it, the price was not only viewed as a subordinate Consideration, but the authority of Government was exerted at the Expence of other Traders, of the Manufacturers, and of the true interests of the Company. As produce and demand have every where a relation to each other, and the Company's Investment when only Thirty Lacks of Rupees made a large Article in the Exports of Bengal, it was impossible that in a comparatively decayed state of the Manufactures it could be instantaneously doubled, or trebled, without violent methods, for where the general practice is to engage Manufacturers by *Advances*, and consequently ready Money purchases are limited, the most extravagant prices could not procure at once, in this way, such a Stock as the Market never contained. The exercise of influence was not confined to the business of the Company, their Servants, other Europeans and the Native Agents of All, had recourse to it: Merchants from the upper parts of Hindostan were in effect expelled, those concerned in Exports by Sea discouraged, and the Manufacturers not only restrained, but too often oppressed by the numerous tribes of Native Agents dispersed over the Country, who served themselves at the Expence both of their Employers and of those with whom their [they?] dealt. The natural result of such proceedings is now easily comprehended, inferiority of the fabrics, and excess in the prices unavoidably followed, the Company were alarmed and complained, but instead of deducing these effects from more general Causes, seem, as in the former Case, and following the idea of some of their Servants, to have thought that another change in the mode of provision, that is, a reversion to the Dadney Contractors, would rectify the evils they experienced. Whatever other motives might have influenced the opposition given to that design in this Country, when it came recomm[ended] [sic] in the Year 1773, it seems certain that as the Circumstances of the Company and the Country under which the Dadney Merchants had been formerly employed, were then totally changed, neither the same reasons remained for employing them, nor would the same ends have been answered; for the Company had no longer an opposing Government nor the former danger of losses in the districts to guard against, and as the obtaining of a large Investment would still have been a leading object, the Contractors instead of being awed and restrained by the Government, must have enjoyed it's support, and thus in a Word have found their power enlarged in proportion to that of the Company, whence, as it may be safely concluded that they would for their own advantage have exercised it to the utmost, it follows that their restoration would in effect have established a severe Monopoly. Nor does it appear that such a reduction of price and improvement of the Fabrics as the Court of Directors aimed at, would have been thus effected. They reckoned probably that Natives could manage more economically, or would give their own Services very cheaply, but it was in the first place certain that Merchants on being required to Contract, would necessarily consider the actual state of the Market, and in the next place that the change in these things had been occasioned by an increased demand for the English Company, and by the Competition of other European Companies and private Traders whose purchases were still continued. Accordingly the proposals

delivered in by Natives in 1772 upon the invitation publicly given them in compliance with the inclination of the Court of Directors, con[firm]ed these positions, for they went greatly beyond the rates which the Company wanted to reduce, so that whatever other methods might be effectual for the end they aimed at, it is plain the one they proposed was inadequate.

9. The political and Commercial systems of the Company have undoubtedly had unfavourable influences on each other. As the former has been made in some instances subservient to the latter, so the latter has suffered not a little from it's intermixture with the former. When the Servants of the Company acquired the Administration of territorial possessions, their state and the Scale of their expences were enlarged in proportion : Commerce managed by Men of this description, to whom it could then have been only a secondary object, must have taken an impression from their sentiments and situation, and have exhibited signs of diffuse expence, and negligent inspection. Had it been a System with Government, and had it been practicable to have kept the Commercial Department of the Company separate under a distinct class of Servants, with it's original rank and the principles of economy and minute attention which belonged to it, various evils might have been prevented, which it's connexion with the political dominion of the Company produced. Men who ranked as Rulers of Provinces, or were in a line to look up to such Stations would not then have been charged with the humble details of a Manufactory or a Compting House, nor would the incongruous cares of Government and of attention to the executive details of Trade have been united in the same person.

10. A return to Commercial principles was one obvious measure for correcting the evils complained of by the Company in their Investments, but no effectual step towards it seems to have followed their remonstrances, and the same system of Agency still continued. Political motives however brought about at home in the Year 1774, that separation of the Departments which commercial reasons had not produced. But this change tho' right in detaching the Commercial business and the Commercial Servants from the other lines of the Service left all other defects in their full extent, and added to them a high degree of trust and independence in the Commercial Board without any adequate Check or Controul.

11. Upon the supposition therefore of the possibility of abuse, nothing could more facilitate the practice of it than thus enabling the Commercial Servants to act in concert and with a discretionary power. The management of the first Board of Trade from their institution in 1774, to their dissolution in 1786 with the apology they have offered for themselves, is now sufficiently known. Tho' Agency continued as has already been observed the professed System for the greater part of the Cloth Investment till the Year 1782, yet that division of it provided under the immediate care of the Board, as well as the valuable and extensive branch of Raw Silk, was generally furnished under the form of *Contract*, with Natives, who were either the instruments or Partners of those that employed them. In 1782 the Governor General and Council exercised at length a Controul over the Commercial Board. War had then exhausted the Treasury,

extraordinary means became necessary to raise a fund for the Investment and the importance of a due application of it was strongly felt.

12. The prevalence of abuses in this department was become matter of general belief and notoriety and the Governor General and Council claiming a right to direct the application of what they had procured upon their own responsibility, determined on resorting universally to the *mode of real Contract* as that which was most likely to secure a faithful outlay of the Money, and all the Goods which could be obtained for it. It seems to have been the wish of Government to effect these objects, or at least an approximation to them, without taking the provision out of the hands of their own Servants, and therefore the general Proposals received, were in most cases used only for the purpose of prescribing to them a reduction of prices, which upon Silk went as far as 25 Per Cent., and on many parts of the Cloth Investment to 10 Per Cent., On these Reductions, with the exception of a few instances, the Servants who had before provided at the higher rates as Agents, without risk, undertook to furnish the Investment as Contractors with all the responsibilities attached to that character, than which fact, there needs nothing more to illustrate the principles which had prevailed in the preceding management. I found on my arrival here, the mode of a general provision of the Investment by Contract still in practice, and indeed so far encreased as for several Years to have permitted only Issues of Paper instead of Money for the advances on which material circumstances it may be incidentally observed, that the adoption of the mode of Contract with Company's Servants was productive of one advantage not in contemplation when it took place, for it seems entirely probable that no other body of people in the Country could by the Medium of Paper, for successive Years, when the public Credit was low, have provided such Investments, as, by the union of the credit of their situations and connections with their personal interest and efforts, were sent home in that period.

13. From this review of past usages in the provision of the Investment, it would seem that the *narrower one of Contract* when a few Native Merchants, that of Agency by Company's Servants and again the recent more general one of *Contract* (which in some sort united the two former) were all suggested by *exigencies of the time*. And altho' the knowledge of these must be of much use, yet to appreciate justly the intrinsic and comparative merit of both modes, it appears requisite to give them a more general and abstract consideration.

14. This proposal leads immediately to enquire into the true principle of the Company's Commerce, and it can certainly be nothing different from the universal one of "procuring the best Commodities at the cheapest rates possible", a simple axiom, but therefore the surest foundation for just investigation. If this be laid down then as the fundamental principle, two conclusions pertinent to the present subject will follow from it—that the Purchaser should know the *original Cost* or intrinsic value of the Goods he is to buy, and that he should take them from the *first hand*. Of the former of these positions no question can indeed be made under any

supposable circumstances; but the propriety of insisting upon a thing so obvious appears in this, that the want of a sufficient knowledge of the original and just prices of Goods, on the part of the Company and the Supreme Administration here, was for a long period the great encouragement to abuse on one hand, and impediment to reform on the other, and in fact the immediate cause of the last recurrence to the mode of Contract. That measure, which implies the difficulty of discovery, may, as it in general reduced the prices, be supposed to have brought the object nearer, but still there was no precise ascertainment, and this I found to be a preliminary, necessary even for deciding whether the mode of Agency or that of Contract should be preferred, and indispensibly necessary whichever had the preference, because if circumstances of expediency should so far induce a departure from the fundamental Commercial principle, as to buy from an *intermediate hand* by which the cost must be enhanced, still in order to deal intelligently and to purchase at the cheapest rate according to that method, the real original Cost or value of the Goods should be known, and this in short is the *grand hinge of intelligent Movement* in this business. whether the purchase is made directly from the Manufacturer, or by contract with an intermediate person, as in either case unless the genuine worth of the Commodity is known, the bargain must be made in the dark.

15. With respect to the other position, that Goods should be bought from the *first hand* (and hence the expence of intermediate profit saved) it must be acknowledged that it points so directly to the mode of Agency, as at one to determine in favour of it, if other Considerations of great moment were not also necessary to be taken into the discussion. These respect the *fidelity* and the *expence* of executing this System. The Company as a collective Body can go to the first hand, and can know the original Cost only by their own Servants, and the unfavourable impressions which past experience has given of their Conduct, naturally suggest distrust and apprehension for the future. This indeed appears the greatest objection to the applicaiton of the principle now in question, that is to the adoption of the Mode of Agency. I was sensible of it's weight and difficulty, but upon due observation was satisfied that the same objection lay with much force against the Mode of Contract also. This conclusion, the practices supposed to have prevailed under that mode, even after the exercise of controul by the Governor General and Council, without referring to still greater licences of an earlier date, sufficiently warrant. It is true the competition of different proposers tends to lower the prices, and did produce a partial effect of this kind, but so many openings must still remain for secret collusion, and in the whole detail of the performance of Contracts, so much connivance and culpable indulgence may take place, that under all the forms of public proposals, and of legal conditions the Company's Interests may yet in the execution be sacrificed. The result in a word, can be prevented only by a *faithful intelligent and attentive Conduct in their Commercial Servants*. If this be supposed wanting, hardly any System can be tolerable, and this once established, the great bar to the adoption of that System, which is in abstract principle the best, is removed. Under the views therefore with which I undertook the management of your affairs, it seemed particularly

ineligible to lay it down at the Outset as a determined point, that fidelity was not to be expected from your Servants, and on the other hand most desirable and important in every view, that principle of honor should be excited and diffused among them as the principle of their Service. I had reason to believe that the Establishment was not without men thus actuated, and that by a due application of the powers and influence of Government, evincing a determined resolution on the one hand to tolerate no irregularities, and on the other, setting the example of that fair and liberal Conduct which it required, not a few would willingly exchange the temptations, dangers and discredit of the former System of concealed emolument, for an open and reasonable Compensation of honest Service.

16. With respect to the expence of the Agency System, if the upright execution of it be supposed, it ought to be no greater to the Company than to Individuals, if so much. With whatever number of Servants, a Contractor could perform his business, at whatever cost he could remit Money, collect, prepare, embale and transport his Goods, an intelligent and honest Agent should be able to do the same business on the same terms, and if it were true that Company's fixed Establishments were upon a scale more extensive than a temporary Contractor would require, whatever difference of that Kind should appear would be found fully compensated in other ways as may hereafter be seen in speaking of those Establishments. If again, the Monthly pay and allowances of the Company's Servants should be brought into this Account, it may be observed that allowances nearly equal would accrue to them from their Rank whether employed in the Commercial line or not. The heaviest charge to which the Company has been exposed under the Agency System is Loss by balances, and a very considerable objection has hence been formed against that mode. This objection must go upon the supposition that the Loss of Contractors from the same cause has been less, for if it were in both cases equal, no argument against Agency could follow. But here again the same reasoning will hold, equal intelligence and vigilance on the part of the Agent, must be equally preventive of loss, and indeed from the name and authority of the Company, more effectual. In fact, the great balances incurred by the Company, have arisen not from the nature of the Agency business, but from gross embezzlements in the Native Servants, and as gross Supineness and indulgence in those of the Company. Yet with all the Losses which these causes have produced, the medium rate at which they are run Per Cent on the Investment for a given number of Years, will be found small, and I believe considerably less than that at which a Contractor would sustain the risks of a single Year. This brings into view the consideration which immediately replies to the objection; a Contractor must include an allowance for risks and Loss of Balances in his terms, and I am persuaded that it ought as just hinted to be estimated higher than the same hazards would amount to in the way of Agency, because an Individual, the Contractor of a Year, whose Stock must be comparatively little, who by adverse circumstances might be even ruined in that year, cannot run those risks at the same rate, which upon an average of Years, they will be found to cost the Company, whose immense Stock secures them from any fear of ruin

by such accidents, and whose permanence and authority may enable them to recover in a course of Years what may be found impossible to be recovered in one. These considerations seem sufficiently conclusive, tho' they suppose that the Company run no risk with Contractors, but experience has furnished too many proofs to the contrary. *They have lost largely by Contractors.* Ten or twelve Lacks of Rupees have fallen in balance under this head with little hope of recovery since the Year 1781, and from the state of Trade and Traders in this Country, there must always be a risk of losses in similar transactions. This remark will be illustrated by what I now mean to say, not in a comparative but abstract way of the nature of Contracting for the Company's Investments. The design of getting a business of such magnitude performed by Contract, or in other words putting it up to the lowest bidders, must, or at least, ought, to include in it the idea of a considerable competition, which can arise only from a pretty large circulation of Commerce, and the notion entertained in Europe of contracting in this Country, is probably such as arises from the view and impressions of the vast free Commerce which is general there, but here the state of things is very different, and from the nature of the people, their Government and climate, must in the most prosperous period have been unlike.

17. The great mass of the Native Dealers have ever applied themselves to the inland Trade, and foreigners who wanted the Commodities of the Country have not only been obliged to come for them, but to superintend the Manufacture of them. The Trading Stock of the Natives in general, their enterprize and their gains, have been small, their particular attention being directed to an avoidance of risk, and to frugality in expence; Hence in a word, excepting the English and their Banians and dependants, there are very few persons in the Company's Territory, who think of being engaged in the provision of the public Investment, or are from their Circumstances, habits, and tempers, competent for it. The descendants of the old Dadney Merchants, whose provision was inconsiderable compared with that of the present day, still inhabit the English Settlement, and may be ranked among their dependants. And even of these descriptions of persons, the English and their Connections, only the smaller part are of fortunes sufficient to be securely trusted, whilst those who are without fortune or employment will always in their line be among the most forward Candidates. It is also to be adverted to, that Europeans not in the Service or Natives may become Contractors, and the charge of the Company's Commercial Establishments which are of great consequence and may be perverted or neglected, will go into their hands, and as they are under fewer responsibilities than the Covenanted Servants, another material difficulty hence arises, tending still more to reduce the class of persons properly eligible for Contractors.

18. Nor indeed is this the only objection suggested by the nature of *those Establishments*, which as connected with the present subject merit some particular consideration.

19. The Commercial Stations or Factories dispersed throughout the provinces, have arisen from the great Trade of the Company and

the necessity of places for securing their property, and receiving the Collections of Manufactures made from a large extent of Country in which the workmen live, being Cultivators of the Ground as well as Mechanics. Something of the same Kind must ever be required for the same business, and except the Factories in the hands of the other European Companys, there is nothing similar to them in the Provinces. The importance of the *charge* of them appears thus, the *Company's Investment* now forms a very large part of the Trade of the whole Country and may be said to be the medium for promoting part of the rest, because the Manufacturers often turn the public Advances to make Cloths for private demand, before they give their produce to the Company, so that in fact the Investment stands in the place of numerous private purchasers which exist no longer. The *Commercial Establishments of the Company* throughout Provinces, have for many Years been the Channels of Provision. They are no doubt still short of that degree of perfection to which they might be brought, but they must in a course of time have become in a certain measure fitted to their end, they have all the detail of provision from the first Advance of Money to the export of the fabric in it's finished state, they possess much of the knowledge and experience that exist in this Country of the Investment, of which in short long usage has made them natural and respected Channels. It is in all probability to the *Superintendence of European Covenanted Servants* that these Establishments owe their permanence for wherever Factories or Aurungs have been left to Natives they have gradually decayed, and without inferring the justification of the former in all things, or any plea for their positive merit, the original distinction in their Character and Situation may well account for the difference in their Conduct. With more general knowledge, more vigorous minds and better impressions of Justice and of Reputation, they come into a strange Country under particular penal Responsibilities to the Company, and dependant upon them for the means of accomplishing the design they all have of returning to their own home, which in general can only be affected by a course of Service. The Native on the other hand, left much in his innate ignorance, feeble and indolent feels little sense of honesty, attachment or reputation, and looks on his Service, which has no great responsibility, as casual and uncertain, his own interest as opposed to every foreign one, and the present moment as the one for serving himself, which he does by methods of low craft, that without scruple, sacrifice the principal object. Admitting that long impunity combined with other causes, may in certain instances, have effaced from the minds of the Servants the sense of duty and responsibility, yet the effect of this has perhaps more generally been to overcharge the Company than to oppress the Manufacturers or ruin the Fabrics, and as the relaxed management which would permit such disorder, must have it's influence on the Natives, a comparison between whom and Europeans is the present object, the superior management of Covenanted Servant should from all the circumstances here stated, be, a natural consequence, nor is the good condition of the Investment, under the *Dadney Merchants*, in the early merely Commercial time of the Company, any objection, for the smaller demand gave more room for selection; the Superintendence of the Servants, confined to one moderate object also greatly contributed, and the

Natives who were employed, better watched, than they have been since the Concerns of the Company have become greater, could use none of the influence of Government in the Districts but had it at least in all its just force against them, so that they could neither oppress the Manufacturers themselves, nor connive at the exactions of Collectors. And this suggests *another advantage from the Employment of Company's Servants in their Commerce* since the Country has been theirs. It has been a great disadvantage in their Government, that their authority in the Establishment of equitable fixed taxation, has never thoroughly pervaded all the interior parts of the Country, so as to put the Peasantry or great body of the people into a state of certainty and ease. The Zemindars, Farmers, and Native Collectors, too often employ their power and art, to commit extortions upon the poor husbandman and Mechanic, and against many of these attempts the Commercial Establishments of the Company, under Commercial Servants, have so far as their concerns extended, proved useful barriers. They have generally protected the Manufacturers, a numerous class of people, whom Native Agents either could not have defended or might often have been tempted to sacrifice; And as arbitrary exactions from the Manufacturers have a baneful effect on their industry and Art, it may possibly be in part owing to this Circumstance that the Country possesses it's present ability of furnishing so large an Investment of qualities suitable for the Company. As moreover the amount of the Investment is of consequence to the Revenue, so from all these observations it will follow that a *right conduct in the Commercial Establishments* by keeping up the quantity and quality of the fabrics on the one hand, and encouraging and protecting the Manufacturers on the other, is of importance both to the Trade and Welfare of the Country, and seeing not only Natives, whose general inferiority of Character alone renders them ineligible, but Europeans also not in the Service, have less to fear and to hope from the Company, they are thence under greater temptation to abuse the temporary authority acquired as Contractors by rigour towards the Manufacturers, forcing from them for one or two Years what may make them more incapable after that period, and thus as well as otherwise, sacrificing the permanent Interest of the Establishments.

20. It is yet further to be observed that a frequent change of Managers at the Aurungs, to which the mode of Contract leads, is unfavourable to the improvement of the Fabrics; and that not only is the preservation of their quality important, but the preservation of the knowledge of them and of the detail of their provision among the Company's Servants, from whom the indiscriminate employment of Contractors might separate it, and perhaps transfer both that and the influence of the Aurungs, to persons who would convert them to the Service of the other European Companies. I have hitherto viewed the mode of Contract only upon Commercial principles and I believe these will be found upon the whole sufficient to decide the question concerning it, but I must own that my opinion of it has been not a little influenced by the political consideration of it's effect upon the welfare of the Country. Contracts here must often in some sort, operate as Monopolies. This may be conceived from the explanations already given respecting the Company's Establishments. When these are put into the hands of Contractors (which will ever

be a necessary condition as to the principal Stations) the influence attached to them must likewise be transferred, and the right or wrong use of it will then in a certain measure depend on the discretion of the Contractor, whose private interest will tempt him to strain his temporary power to beat down the hire of the poor Manufacturer and to endeavour to exclude other Purchasers, from whence the debasement of the Fabrics will actually follow. If he is not in the Service the controul over him is difficult; The interference of Collectors in matters of complaint can, from the contrariety of representations seldom afford speedy and effectual redress, if they extend it to the interruption of his business, the necessary provision of the Investment is in the first place impeded, and as both the Company and the Contractor are under penal Engagements, the foundation may be laid of a legal dispute. This whole System in a word has a tendency to counteract the Spirit of the Regulations which I had early in contemplation and have since established for the freedom of the Manufacturers and of Trade, and as a Monopoly if it were to be at all tolerated, would be better in the hands of the Company than in any other, so I am clearly of opinion that whatever is calculated to arm Individuals with a power of this nature should upon the general principles of Policy be discouraged, and as far as may be practicably avoided.

21. From the view thus taken of the principal Arguments which appeared for and against these different ways of providing the Investment it seemed to me evident that the mode of Agency might be not only more proper for the Servants but better for the Country, and for the Company's Commerce: that an effort of this Kind was become necessary for recovering the knowledge of the original prices, that the same principle of integrity and care which was requisite in the System of Contract, would also be effectual in the other; and that only the despair of that principle, or such a public exigency as should absorb the resources and affect the Credit of Government could render a recourse to Contracts advisable. I therefore recommended that trial of the mode of Agency of which you were informed, making it at first partial, and conceding such an allowance to the Agents as ought in reason to secure the most essential article in this Scheme, a faithful performance. Herein it materially differed from all former usage, and as you yourselves were pleased to introduce the idea of a specific compensation to the Servants employed in the Investment, I shall not need to justify the principle on which the concession was made. It is obvious that unless the interests of the Company and their Servants are united upon a fair and reasonable ground, fidelity cannot with perfect confidence be expected from them, nor indeed insisted upon with the same advantage, and the idea long acted upon of their being compensated by undefined emoluments, has in effect been used to create or sanction such as could not be avowed. To take away both pretence and temptation to every practice of this kind, and to engage by liberal treatment an honourable conduct seemed indispensable for the welfare of this branch of your Service, and indeed salutary for the whole mass. The Commission granted on the provision by constituting an immediate addition to the cost may appear an objection to the Agency System. But it is given only upon the ground of producing a greater good, and should that fail, the

System must fall. If the Commission is fairly earned it will be more than repaid in the moderate original price of the Goods, the encouragement of the Manufacturers and other beneficial effects, and at any rate it will not exceed what Contractors in general may have reckoned in their proposals for their time and labour. It is true that the allowance of the Commission upon the provision, is a considerable deviation from the plan recommended by you, which made the benefit of the Servants dependant on the Profits of the sales in England; But I found that so distinct an expectation, suspended upon circumstances which the most meritorious conduct here could not controul, as the fluctuations of the Markets in Europe, the absolute unprofitableness of some parts of the Investment however faithfully provided, the smallness of others, and the risks of the Sea, was not likely to produce an animation requisite to the attainment of the great object, and that a Commission more certain and sooner paid, with liberal Salaries to the Members of the Commercial Board, would upon the whole incur no great expence beyond the computed amount which it was your intention to bestow from the Sales in England.

22. You were pleased also to make it part of your plan of provision that the Commercial Residents should be restricted from private Trade, the Commercial Board having formerly been thus limited in whatever could have relation to your Investment. I took up this Order in the disposition to carry it into execution, but upon looking into the means of giving it efficiency, and into the consequences that would result from acting upon it, I was altogether convinced that the performance was not practicable, and if it were, that it would not be expedient.

23. To prohibit persons settled as Commercial Agents in the various interior parts of the Country, where they are under no local Superintendence, from transacting any business on their own account, would be to enjoin that which could not be enforced. Traffic is of a nature that may pass through many different Channels without being traced to it's source. A Commercial Resident may have various connections in his neighbourhood who may be employed by him or associated with him yet can neither be brought to proof, nor restrained on suspicion. Every Dealer in the Vicinity of a Resident would find it his interest to be on good terms with him, and Secrecy in illicit combinations is the point of honour of the Natives. Nothing on the other hand would be more easy for a Resident than to favour one or more Europeans, and the indirect transfer of his influence to any description of persons might be of much worse tendency than the open exercise of it, in this respect particularly, that larger quantities of the Fabrics might then be diverted from the Company's Investment, whereas a Resident avowedly a Trader for himself, the obvious interpretation that would follow a failure, would be a means of prevention, and by a little business ent[er]prise [of] his own, he would gain more than by large cla[ndes]tine participated Concerns. It may be supposed that other Traders and the Manufacturers would afford ready means of detection. But these people know that there is nothing immoral in Trade itself, it is not of the same nature as the extortion of Money would be by a Collector, and all that could generally follow, were it even in the power of such people to bring proofs home to a Resident, would be to oblige him to conciliate them more. The efficacy of a System that

depended on such means for support may be easily conceived. In short to impose restraints which are from so many Circumstances incapable of being enforced, would not remove supposed evils, but beget new ones. I must besides confess in the present circumstances of this Country, the permission of Trading to your Commercial Servants does not appear to me to be any evil, but rather the Contrary. This liberty in the hands of Collectors and Judges would be evidently misplaced, and the strongest temptation to render the Administration of Justice and of the Revenues subservient to mercantile pursuits. Restriction also is in this case much more practicable. They cannot without exposure have any trading appearances or connections and the interest of the Commercially privileged part of the Service would be against them, but putting all on a foot, would be the way to unite all in elusions, And as the habits and employment of a Commercial Agent prevent an accurate discrimination [sic] of his Commercial transactions so there is not that opposition between his Trade and the Company's nor has he now that power of abuse which might be imagined. The motives which suggested the restriction in question probably were, that the Agent might not alienate any part of his provision to private purposes, that he might not pervert the influence of the Company to serve their rivals, that he might not have the temptation of personal interest to oppress the Manufacturers, and that his undivided time might be given to his Employers. Upon these suggestions it is to be observed, that the Agents are already u[nder] peremptory injunctions to apply no part of the produce of an Aurung to their own Trade 'till the Company's demand is supplied, this Order by an intelligent Board of Trade can be made effective, and the Seasons or some other cause of notoriety be alone accepted as an excuse for failure. And the Company, tho' the return of their Ships does not bring them the specific quantity of every assortment required the former Year, which may be an impossibility, yet *do upon the whole get the amount of the funds that they can assign for Investment.* If there is any difficulty here, it must be on account of more selection under a stricter Management, for in the supposed periods of greatest abuse, the quantity provided were the largest. If it be thought that part of the best may go to Foreigners or other Traders, the legislature as well as your Orders have already made traffic with the former penal, and besides what has been before said of the full supply of the wants of the Company, and the inefficacy of prohibitions which cannot be supported by coercion, it is generally understood that the greater part of the private and foreign trade carried on in this Country in Cloths, is in assortments much inferior to the Company's. The chief exceptions are formed by the Commanders of your Ships who are usually supplied thro' the medium of Free Merchants, Armenians and Natives settled at or trading to Dacca. In Raw Silk, excepting only the inferior Kinds, there is no Trade but the Company's. As to the fear of oppression to the Manufacturers, the Regulations of 1787 forbid compulsion even on account of the Company, so that there can be no room for a Resident to employ it on his own, and it is the interest of private Traders as well as the Manufacturers, to whom these Regulations are generally known to prevent him. I shall readily acknowledge that if the whole time of an Agent could be exclusively secured for the Company's business, such an appropriation of

it would be satisfactory, tho' I shall not affirm that it would be necessary. But from the circumstances already mentioned such a voluntary disposal of it is hardly to be hoped for, and it cannot easily [ever] be compelled. I understand moreover, that the local trade [in raw silk ?] carried on by the Agents is usually an inferior gradation of that which they manage for the Company, and may be considered as an extension of the same object, not requiring a different application of their faculties, and that in general the Company's allotment may admit of this subordinate care; I have indeed been informed that it has proved convenient both to the Company and Manufacturers by furnishing a ready means of Sale for the fabrics which fell below the Company's qualities; Thus securing to them a better selection and the payment of Balances, and saving the Weaver the time and trouble that carrying such inferior Cloths to Market, would require. The most essential points of an Agent's personal attention are the prices, and the qualities of the Fabrics, their prompt delivery, and the full return of advances, the first and second are in a certain measure regulated by Standards, and with the other points require rather a daily attention than the whole of each day. A man of activity may therefore render his duty to the Company compatible with a certain regard to affairs of his own, managed in detail as is usual, by others. And as skill and ability depend on the exertion of the powers, to give the Agents less to do, might perhaps only diminish their diligence and acuteness. This point at any rate turns on what is obtainable, not on what is desirable, and whether the business of an Agent be complex or not, his acting up to his duty must generally much depend on the Superintendence of the Commercial Board. In other points connected with this topic, I confess, I am more clear. Tho' some Servants may not be well qualified and others not well situated for Trade, yet I apprehend that an interdiction from it would damp that zeal which I trust the other parts of the present Commercial System are calculated to inspire, because they might consider it as a deprivation of a fair source of advantage, not sacrificing nor incompatible with, the Company's Interest, and an abridgment of an ancient privilege now actually enjoyed by the Servants of other Companies, and by free Merchants, who must by the business such an arrangement would throw exclusively into their hands, be put into a better condition than many of the Servants themselves. This brings into view an important part of the question. Since the Establishment of an European Government in this Country has opened the way for so many Europeans into various parts of it, their superior activity and vigour has given them a large space of the field of Trade, especially as almost the whole of the Manufactures except what are used for home consumption, now center in the European Settlements, and chiefly in Calcutta for their Exports. The Merchants of those Settlements will generally trust their Countrymen sooner than the Natives, whose want of good faith has greatly contributed to give Foreigners an ascendancy over them. If then your Servants were interdicted from all concern in private trade, the scene would be enlarged for the dependants of the French, Dutch and other Foreigners, who would thence not only absorb profits that would have flowed into British Channels, but what I should consider as still more objectionable extend their own connections in the Country.

From all these considerations I concluded that both your political and Commercial Interests required me to suspend the publication of your restraining Order, and I hope they will appear of so much weight as to justify that suspension, and recommend a revocation of the Order itself.

24. In what I have now said respecting Foreigners I wish to be clearly understood as aiming only at preserving to our own subjects the Trade they actually possess and not with a view of raising any unreasonable discouragement to theirs. As the prosperity of this Country is the Source that feeds your Investment, so every hindrance to the extension of it's Commerce must tend ultimately to diminish your returns from it, not perhaps the specific profits of what you receive but the Annual capital furnished from the Revenues. And if from an increased trade that capital should yield, for instance, a Cargo more, your advantage hence I presume would be greater, than could accrue from the better prices which a less quantity of Goods, or the obstruction of a rival Trade might produce.

25. In consistency with these Sentim[ents] as well as with National Policy, the Regulations published here in 1787 for the Company's Manufactures provided also for the Commercial Rights of Foreigners and Individuals, and I am happy to find that the Spirit of them entirely harmonizes with the Convention formed about the same time with France, and the Orders since received from you upon it. It shall be my wish to give these Orders an effectual operation, but it falls within the scope of the present Letter to remark that from the long established manner of dealing with the Manufacturers in this Country and the general absolute terms in which liberty of Trade is conceded to the French, there is reason to apprehend a real difficulty in preserving at once your own provision upon it's present footing, and satisfying the assuming temper which their Agents have usually shown here, in the interpretation of the Orders in their favour. By the great superiority of the English Company both in influence and Money, the gradual decay of the French Trade from the failure of their former Company, and the extinction of it in the last War, the best part of the present race of Weavers in the Country have been formed in the English Service, to which they have been long attached. It is well known to you that the practice of advancing to them the Cost of the Cloth they are to work is of immemorial standing, they must be thus enabled to procure their Materials, and the immense Investment of the Company with the exigency of providing Cargoes in due time for their Ships, renders it indispensable to them. It has been found necessary to establish various regulations for securing the fair return in due time of the Money thus advanced, because the Weavers are ever prone to Sell and private Dealers alike disposed to buy, for ready Money and at a higher price the Cloths thus produced, to the manifest injury of the first Employer, whose Money is thus made a capital for the Trade of another, or else with equal propensity the Weavers will take advances from different persons at the same time, to the certain disappointment of one or other, perhaps of all, because each has a right to expect his Cloth at the end of the period required for manufacturing it, and the labour of the same man cannot be multiplied in proportion to

engagements thus dishonestly formed. On these accounts, after the principle of excluding other Traders, too much countenanced on the assumption of Dewannee, had been renounced by your Servants, it was still thought requisite that whilst a Weaver worked for the Company, he should work for them only, because, if his doing so for others at the same time was tolerated the certain consequence would be frequent failures from the causes now mentioned, to the subversion of the Company's design in making Advances. This rule tho' in practice not rigorously insisted on, was however professed, in order to procure the quantity of Cloths the Weaver had engaged for, and by the last Regulations of 1787, as the lowest footing on which this matter could be placed, it is ordained, that what a Weaver undertakes to perform for the Company, other (subsequent) engagements shall not interfere with, as also that all other Traders shall receive their returns in the Order in which they have made Advances.

26. The French in recommencing their Trade here last Year, would neither regard the actual Engagement of Weavers in the Service of the Company, nor the regulations established for the Government of that body of people, but insisted on lavishing Advances amongst numbers of them and those especially in the Company's Service, and by the extravagance of their Rates strove to get Cloths from them without any attention to the state of their other Engagements. These matters have been already largely referred to you, but it does not appear that the main principle maintained against the French, the necessity of regulating the conduct of Manufacturers and Dealers so that *prior engagements and Advances may have their due preference* has been sufficiently adverted to, tho' this is the real ground on which the necessity of a certain degree of restraint has been justly pleaded, and it seems that necessities of a similar nature have been known and the source of various regulations, for Manufacturers in Europe.

27. It is true that an Adherence to this principle must place the French, at the renewal of the business here, upon a disadvantageous footing, but this seems a natural and unavoidable consequence of their absence, it was to be expected that the Manufacturers over whom they had no tie, would on their return be otherwise engaged, and that those by whom they were employed would not then think themselves obliged to relinquish them. A general right of trading in the Country, and the right of appropriating to themselves the Services of persons previously engaged, are very different things, and it seemed a proper answer to such pretensions, that they might hire and train for themselves unengaged Workmen, who, tho' now inferior, might in time become what the English Company's are. But if upon the whole the French Agents should again contend that a full and absolute freedom of Trade entitles them to deal with all Manufacturers, whether previously engaged or not, to convince them of the unreasonableness of thus straining the Convention to a meaning which it could not have looked to, and to reconcile them to an acquiescence in the principles of the general arrangements, may not be found easy. Of late, and since a change of the principal Agent at Chandernagore they have been more quiet and moderate, one cause of which may be that on the alarm produced by the Affairs of Holland they withdrew their Residents from the Subordinates, and

it is only recently that they have received from Europe a supply of Specie to recommence their operations.

28. The exposition now given of the usual manner of providing Goods here, and of the consequent restraints necessary upon Manufacturers, serves to point out what the true principle of *freedom of Trade* in this Country must be. A great deal has been said on this subject, and apparently in reference to the state of things in Europe, where in every branch of Manufacture there are opulent Men that work upon their own Stock, and where the Markets supplied by Goods thus produced, leave as they ought, the Seller and the Buyer perfectly unrestrained. But here the single circumstance of making Advances to the Manufacturer creates a great distinction. It is hence necessary to make regulations for preventing Injustice, and therefore instead of a freedom *without limitation* to which some arguments have gone, it seems a just idea of *true Commercial freedom* in the Circumstances of this Country *that all be allowed to Trade but according to priority of engagements and Advances to receive the returns.*

29. In treating of this subject I think it not amiss to take some notice of a scheme which has at different times been suggested here, upon the ground either of freedom of Trade, or of advantageously supplying the Investment. It is, *that the Company should abolish their Commercial Establishments, withdraw entirely their Agents from the Districts and provide their Investments with ready Money in Calcutta.* It has been supposed that hence a general and effective liberty of Trade would be established, that Calcutta as the grand Market would be abundantly stored with Goods, and that the Company by purchasing there would be saved from the necessity of making Advances and from the charge of Establishments. It is to be observed that altho' there have been contentions about particular branches of Manufacture, and the Company do not easily get the full quantities they want of some assortments, yet the produce of the Country has, upon the whole, for a good number of Years past, been equal to the demand, and for any thing that has appeared may on the present footing of Trade be extended if the demand should encrease. That demand is now chiefly for the Europe Market, and at the close of the Shipping Season, I am told there are frequently considerable quantities of Goods on hand in Calcutta. An *extension* of the Manufactures therefore being neither required, not known to be on the present footing difficult, this would not be the effect of the Scheme, and the real import of it is then only, a change *in the mode of bringing forward the present produce* which deserves to be remarked, because this is a thing very different from the idea of enlarging the Export Trade of the Company. The ascendancy which the character and situation of Europeans here give them over the Natives has been already noticed, and the importance of the Company's Commercial Establishments, in the hands of their Servants especially, has also been seen as protecting the Manufacturers and preserving the Fabrics, which purposes they are more likely to answer in the hands of Company's Servants than of other Individuals. The Fraudulent disposition likewise of the Manufacturers has been observed, and to these may be added the still too feeble operation of Laws and Regulations, in places distant from

the Seats of authority<sup>1</sup> and Justice. If the proposed scheme were adopted, multitudes of Europeans would flock into the interior parts of the Country, they would naturally possess themselves of the Seats of the Manufactures, abandoned by the Company, eager competition must immediately arise, enhanced prices and debased fabrics follow, the Weavers would receive Advances from all, and probably disappoint all, each would be ready to take redress into his own hands; disputes between Merchants as well as between them and the Manufacturers would be inevitable, and the Country thus in all probability become a Scene of confusion and Disorder, which the distant situation and other avocations of the Collectors would little permit them to rectify. How far a salutary freedom and extension of Commerce would be promoted by such means, it cannot be hard to determine.

30. On the Advantages proposed to the Company by the above Scheme it is to be remarked, that when the state of their Finances will allow them to buy in Calcutta with Money, it will also allow them to Advance Money, and when the embarrassment of debt obliges them to issue paper, they can dispose of that paper better in any other way, than by tendering it at the end of the Season for Goods which the necessity of dispatching the Ships must oblige them to take. When free of embarrassment it would be a disadvantage to them not to advance Money, because it would otherwise lie unproductive, whilst the Merchant who should provide Goods with his own funds must include in their price the Interest during the time they are in advance; And with respect to the Charges of Establishment, every Merchant must incur an expence of this kind, and add it also to the Cost of his Provision. Upon the present footing of the Commercial Establishments, their amount may be about 5 Per Cent on the Investment, and no European Merchant unless trading on a very large Scale, or trusting Natives, which will be ruinous in other ways, could maintain an Establishment at the same rate, besides that upon the change now supposed, unless the Company's Factories were made over to Individuals, every Adventurer must build one of his own, and the cost of it be also considered in his Trade. But there is still a more important question, the due realization of the Company's Annual Investment, and it is proposed that this great object, on which their exports, shipping, home resources, and in effect the being of the Company so much depend, should be left to turn on the precarious Purchase of Goods at the Calcutta Market a Market still to be formed, and by means so unpromising. If great competition, expence and dispute would follow in the Districts, great uncertainty and a high price, must also be found the consequence at the last Market. And instead of bringing down at length the price of Goods, there is reason to suppose that the Merchants would Combine to keep it up, the more wealthy would overbid and beat out the inferior Dealers, and the Company would be always more in their power than they would be in the Company's, because the produce or in other Words the trading Stock of the Country will never much exceed the whole demand. and the Company's Investment forms a very considerable part of that demand and is indispensable to them. To this is to be added, that if the English Company were to withdraw their Factories, those of foreign Companies would still remain,

existing Treaties prevent their abolition and they would receive a vast accession of business and importance by such a dereliction. In short as in all great changes a certain degree of inconvenience must be unavoidable. I conceive that nothing but a reasonable prospect of succeeding in some important object, should induce any Government to hazard them. But here there would be a clear surrender of present great advantage, and no certainty of future compensation or even safety : upon the whole therefore as that Commercial freedom which forms the most plausible ground of this Scheme has by the Regulations of 1787 been consulted as far as it was thought the Circumstances of the Country would admit, so the Proposal does not appear to be calculated for the present state of these dominions. The absence of every degree of influence and restraint, must in Theory be desirable, but is not likely to be produced by this Project, to give which a probability of success, a different state of Society, more vigour in the Natives, a more enlarged and efficacious System of Laws must be supposed, and it seems in effect to provide for little more than that the Company should transfer to certain number of Individuals, the vast Machine of their Commerce here, and become dependant on them.

31. The real enlargement given to freedom of Trade has a tendency to produce one effect which it is a part of my present design to mention. I mean an enhancement of the original cost of your Goods. It is understood indeed that Freedom at length reduces prices, but the case in question here is chiefly that of a *Manufacture*, the Workmen of which if at liberty and solicited to accept other offers can be induced to remain only by higher Wages. Justice, good policy and the obligation of Treaties, all concur to render a modified Commercial Freedom an indispensable principle in the Government of this Country. Greater competition in your purchases from foreign Companies and Individuals must therefore be expected, and it will indeed affect the price of Raw Materials as well as of labour. This effect already begins to be sensibly felt, remonstrances have been made by the manufacturers from various quarters, and what is more decisive they shew a great inclination to quit the Company's Employ. To return to the System of compulsion is impossible and there is hence a necessity of yielding in some measure to their representations, and all that is practicable here is to make the concessions as moderate as will consist with securing the continuance of their labour. Thus circumstanced you will judge that it must be impossible for your Servants to follow literally the Orders frequently received from you not to encrease the prices of the Goods. Obedience to this injunction can in many cases be no longer in their power, without foregoing the principal object, and instead of general prohibitions it will be advisable where reduction appears necessary, to fix as has already been done in some instances, a precise *Standard* which is not to be exceeded. The narrow prices given in different parts by Contractors, with the distress of two unfavourable Years have in part occasioned the demand of encreases from Manufacturers, but freedom of Trade must leave your Investment always open to some fluctuations in the price. And as it is certain that the Company must suffer less by augmentation than other purchasers, so in consistency with the principle of freedom, a well managed System of Agency seems the

best counterpoise of this Inconvenience, which it is to be observed reaches only the *first* Cost of the Goods, and may be more than compensated by the better fabrics procured from the Manufacturers, by economy in the other details of expence, and an attention to quick and entire returns.

32. The contingencies however to which your Commerce is liable from free competition with the decay or alienation of some Aurungs and particularly the rapid Advances which I observe are making in England in Cotton Manufactures, render some supplementary aids to your Investment here highly desirable and important, and it is my wish to bestow an effectual attention on this object. I have in this view encouraged a Commercial Establishment at Benares more immediately indeed that an equivalent might thence be derived for the Cloths no longer procured from Owde, but also with the general design of rendering that valuable province and your Investment, mutually serviceable to each other, and from the good management there, I have hopes that this design may be gradually accomplished. But in my opinion those Articles in which your possessions afford you an essential and unlimited resource without any apprehension of rivalry with the Mother Country, and to the Advancement of her Interests, are *Raw Silk* and *Indigo* I consider both these Staples as of high importance and capable of being carried to any extent.

33. *Raw Silk* is already in a state of great improvement, and tho' your discontinuance of the Trade in it, with two most unpropitious Years, have concurred to lessen the actual produce of it and to raise the Cost, yet the culture of the Mulberry plant may in a few Seasons be rendered adequate to any supposable requisition, and as the demand of this Article in England will probably be always great, it seems worthy of being adopted as a settled maxim in your Trade that *Raw Silk* shall always constitute a considerable part of your Exports from Bengal, and if it were even necessary to secure this point by a new arrangement of Duties, the object appears of sufficient magnitude to deserve it. Such an ascertained demand would encourage the rearing of the Mulberry Plant and Silk Worm, which in it's turn would lessen the price, and as the other parts of India depend chiefly on Bengal for their supply of *Raw Silk*, the Trade with them would thereby be also assisted. I am informed that *Silk* may be produced in Behar, and that the larger Mulberry and drier Soil of that province are remarkably favourable for it. An experiment lately encouraged there, has given a Specimen of excellent *Silk*, which if produced in large quantities will be a very valuable accession. With respect to the Winding of the *Silk*, tho' a great reform has taken place, it is still capable of higher perfection and I hope will receive it, so as further to recommend the permanent encouragement of this Trade.

34. *Indigo* another production from the fertile soil of Bengal, and only recently an Article of foreign Commerce, absolutely creates a new source of Wealth to it, capable perhaps of being in time rendered equal to supply the demands of the greater part of Europe. It affords a happy means of employing the waste Lands of the Country, improving the Revenue, and repairing the Loss of other branches of

*Trade.* The great importance of encouraging it is therefore evident. In the Manufacture of this Article European Art has been essentially useful, and may still be long requisite to it's Establishment and perfection. It is to be regretted that the Exports made to you of it, have in general been provided with so little attention to the quality and price, as at length to induce you to relinquish the Trade in it. The great care taken in these respects during the last and present year, will I hope be apparent in the produce of your Sales at home, and particularly that the terms of the current year will be such as may afford you a prospect of being able to resume the Trade without Loss, if not with Advantage.

35. The Manufacture of Indigo here by Europeans has had the difficulties of an infant undertaking to struggle with, the heavy cost of Buildings, the reluctance of the Natives (adverse to Novelties) to extend the culture of the plant, the high Cost of it, errors in practice and inclement Seasons. These are in part surmounted, which must influence the price, and I am informed that the quality is generally improving. If this were once carried universally to a point which I understand to be very attainable, that is an equality at least with the best West India Indigo, I should conceive the success and stability of this Manufacture, which must entirely depend on the European demand, to be well secured. The next year will properly be the first in which the Planters will be left entirely to private resources, and as some of them may be obliged to look for the attainment of Money on the Security of their exported produce, and the Company's Remittance may render this difficult, there is hence reason to apprehend that their undertakings may suffer discouragement. The expence of freight on the Company's Ships is I am told another difficulty with them, which may possibly have the effect of conveying the Indigo thro' secret Channels into foreign bottoms, whose rate of freight is said to be very moderate. These observations may serve to give an idea of the present state of this Article, regarded as a branch of the Commerce of the Country, the details which concern your purchases have been transmitted to you in the communications of the Board of Trade. My design in chiefly to inculcate it's great importance both to your Commerce and as a political and National object, and hence to suggest the expediency of paying every practicable attention to it's establishment and extension to which ends I am disposed to exert my own care in every proper way.

36. After adverting to those topics which were presented by the consideration of the provision of your Investment, it remains now that I speak of the issue of the trial made of the mode of Agency. And I have great pleasure in being able to say that it succeeded so well, as fully to Justify the solidity of the grounds on which it had been undertaken, and to evince both the practicability and the advantages of that Mode. I was satisfied that the objects so greatly to be desired, a genuine provision, and an honest discharge of duty, with better terms for the Company and the Manufacturers, were obtainable by it. Upon this experience the provision in this manner for the present Year was much extended, and the fuller conformation now received of it's superiority has induced me in arranging the plan for the next Investment to render it universal.

37. At it's commencement there were great obstacles to contend with from those causes already touched on, decay and alienation of the Aurungs, competition of other Dealers, the indisposition of the Manufacturers and the demand of encreased Rates. All these circumstances some of which had their origin from the former System, tended to oppose the success of this, and the Establishment of the new, strict and detailed method of transacting business, laid down in the general Instructions to the Agents, of March 1787, instead of the former general, loose method has proved no easy task, but the severest opposition of all has been found in two successive Years of calamity, in the first of which Inundations and Tempest, and Drought in the second, by distroying or preventing the fruits of the Earth, have occasioned a general dearth, and most affecting distress and mortality among the people.

38. Not half the usual quantity of Silk has been procurable either in the last or present Year, and the encrease of price unavoidably great. The Cotton Crops have also every where failed; Grain, not always to be had in every place, has been three times it's usual price, the labour of the Manufacturers at the usual rates could not support them, which necessarily must have forced them to apply too great a proportion of their Advances for the subsistence of their families, giving in consequence Cloths of inferior value, and tho' the cares of Government to Administer relief have not been remitted, not a few of this class of people have perished. It was impossible but that providential dispensations so wide and fatal in their consequence, should have retarded and obscured the effects of the Agency System; Instead of the full display which might in a happier time have been expected, of improved qualities and cheaper Provision, the realization of a moderate Investment at a moderate price without great loss by balances was the necessary, immediate object substituted. Nevertheless, I have good reason to believe that the most substantial parts of that System are already secured, and it's essential principles as set forth in the Instructions before mentioned, brought into practice. Besides the milder treatment which the Manufacturers have experienced at a time when they stood in the greatest want of it, the real Cost of the Goods and all the detail of the Charges of Provision have been and continue to be minutely and satisfactorily exhibited, the qualities of the most valuable fabrics begin to improve, there is a general spirit of attention and exertion, and as far as can be judged by a very close inspection, of fidelity also. I am in a word satisfied that there is now no Systematic or practised abuse in the Commercial Department. I do not even conceive there is a single Agent employed in it who ventures to state an Article beyond the terms actually advanced by him, I therefore regard that Department as clear and as now furnishing the Investment *intelligently and attentively provided at it's genuine and fair cost without any charge upon it but what has been actually expended and necessary.* Having obtained this poi[nt] I consider the merit and success of the Agency System by your own Servants as established.

39. The example of integrity and Zeal which the Agents have given cannot fail to have a beneficial influence upon the Service, the

Country and your general interests; and I have therefore only further to wish and recommend, that the same System may continue to be supported and Cherished;

I have the honor to be with great respect.

Honble. Sirs

Your most Obedient and  
most humble Servant  
Cornwallis

Fort William

November the 1st. 1788.

[Endorsed]

Letter from Lord Cornwallis to the Court of Directors dated

1st Nove. 1788

(Commercial)

Recd.

Per Wm. Pitt.

26 March 1789.

[No. 13, Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 27, 193-262]

## LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1788

*Commercial treaty with Oudh concluded—measures of reform at Benares—efficient and economical reorganisation of offices—increase in salaries and abolition of perquisites—Sir William Jones' translation of Hindu and Muslims laws—Guntur sarkar acquired by the Company from the Nizam—Ghulam Qadir's barbarities at Delhi—legality of conveying exports from Bengal through non-British vessels employed as packets—caution necessary in adopting measures for increase in land revenue.*

**T**HE Honble. The Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble, United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honble. Sirs,

1. The voluminous proceedings of the Board which you will receive by this conveyance, will furnish you with clear and minute information of the manner in which your Affairs have been conducted since the dispatch of the last Ship of the preceding Season, and I trust will also afford ample and satisfactory testimony of the Zeal and application of your supreme Government.

2. The interests of your territories are now so much blended with those of the Province of Owde, that in my opinion, we are called upon no less by considerations of private advantage than by a regard to the honor and credit of the Nation, to pay the most liberal attention to every Public measure that may tend to promote it's prosperity. It was from these motives as I have informed you that I proposed last year to the Vizier, to arrange a Commercial Treaty between the two Governments, upon conditions of mutual benefit and of perfect equality : And I requested that his Ministers should consider themselves at entire liberty to discuss the different Articles with regard to their effect or the interest of His Excellency's dominions, with the utmost deliberation and freedom. A Copy of the Treaty which, after much correspondence, was concluded in this manner, will be transmitted to you in the dispatch from the Board. It is nearly conformable to the Draft which was inclosed to you in my Letter by the Rodney; And I am sanguine enough to hope that it will contribute to awaken a spirit of activity and industry in the Country of Owde, whilst by facilitating our Communication with the Decan, and with the upper Provinces of the Empire, many valuable sources of Commerce will be opened or enlarged for the inhabitants of the Company's dominions.

3. The Regulation and reform of the management of the Province of Benares, has likewise continued to occupy a great deal of my most earnest attention, as being an object which your immediate interests and the general principles of policy and humanity rendered it equally important to accomplish. Instead of entering in place into a detail of the evils that existed and of the measures that have been adopted for encouraging the Commerce and Culture and for securing happiness for the numerous inhabitants of that valuable Zemindarry, I shall beg leave to refer you to the Resident's different letters (but particularly that which is dated 12th Sept. 1788\*) and to the Resolutions and instructions of the Board upon them in which you will find every interesting particular relating to the situation of Benares as well as the motives which influenced our decisions and orders, fully and distinctly explained. After becoming acquainted with the alarming state of decay into which that Country had fallen and with the prevalent defects and vices in it's internal Government, I entertained no hopes of obtaining an hearty concurrence and assistance from the Raja in their correction, because I believed him to be, like most of the Chiefs of this Country, too jealous of his own personal importance to assent with sincerity to rules which included the very necessary regulation of his own conduct, and too little capable of comprehending the ruinous consequences to his own private interests which must ultimately arise from an irregular and capricious System of Government. On the other hand, having no intention to attempt to increase the present Revenue or actual power of the Company in Benares, I proceeded with confidence to Authorize the measures of reformation which are described in the public Records. And I hope they will by promoting the improvement of Commerce and Cultivation tend to give permanency to the Company's Revenue and to add

\*This Letter is recorded on Cons : 3 Octr. and will be transmitted on the Proceedgs. in the Rev : Dep : by the next Ships.

considerably to the profits and income of the Raja himself whilst I likewise trust that experience will prove that they have been well calculated to protect the Mass of the inhabitants against the miseries so common in this quarter of the Globe, of oppression and injustice. From the great and constant resort of strangers to Benares, many of whom are persons of high rank or eminent learning it is there that the merits or defects of our Government will be most conspicuous : And I am inclined to hope and believe that the praises of the Resident and the report of British moderation and justice will be conveyed to the most remote provinces of Hindostan.

4. Your orders for the abolition of the Custom house duties, were, in as far as they directly affected the foreign Nations, carried into execution, immediately after they were received; And whilst the measure has undoubtedly removed many grounds for altercation with the foreign Companies, I trust that in it's effects, it will also tend to the General encouragement of the Commerce of this Country.

5. I could however see no adequate general benefit that could arise from relinquishing the Town duties of Calcutta, which amount annually to a very considerable Sum. If it shall appear from experience that the duties on Goods coming from the Country are either oppressive to individuals or hurtful to the general commerce of the Town, they will be lowered or entirely taken off. It was absolutely necessary that duties should be levied on the frontiers of Bahar, at the rates which had been settled by our Treaty with the Vizier, not merely on account of the Sum which they will produce, but as a measure of Policy, to give a reasonable protection to the Manufacturers of Bengal and Bahar, against the importation of those of similar fabrics from the Countries of Benares and Owde.

6. The Proceedings of the Board in the Department which we denominated *separate* contain a full and district account of the investigations and the arrangements that we have made of the duties and establishments of the Company's Servants and of all Public Offices under this Government.

7. The fundamental objects of our plan were to curtail all unnecessary expences, and to establish useful rules for Simplifying and facilitating the dispatch of all branches of the Public business. Under the head of economy, we proceeded to the abolition of useless Offices and the reduction of extravagant establishments; And to render it more difficult in future to introduce abuses, the heads of Offices were required to lay before the Board a detail of such establishments as they conceived to be indispensibly necessary for carrying on the business, specifying the duties and proposing the Salaries for each individual, and it appeared to us of particular importance for the perfection of the System, to allow liberal Salaries to the heads of responsible Offices, and to abolish and prohibit in every case whatever, all perquisites and emoluments whether undefined or defined.

8. Important however as the object of economy must be admitted to be, I confess that I considered it as of a secondary nature to that

of establishing useful arrangements for employing and facilitating the dispatch of business at the Public Offices, and with that view some departments whose duties were of a similar nature such as the Treasuries and the Accountant General's Offices, have been united, and the Civil Servants instead of being permitted to hold offices in different departments have been restricted to one branch of the Service.

9. The general plan having appeared to the Board of great consequence both for your interest and your Satisfaction, we have thought it deserving of much attention and of a considerable portion of time in arranging it's different parts. From the materials before you, it is open to your own judgement whether we have succeeded in the execution of our own intentions which as I have already remarked were to improve the mode of carrying on the Public business of this Government in point of economy, Order and dispatch and to exhibit the nature of the duties and the precise amount of the incomes of all the Company's Servants to the clear observation of your Honble. Court.

10. In the alteration of Allowances it has been a general rule that no fixed Salary shall exceed the amount of the former Salary and the usual perquisites and emoluments of the Office put together, tho' in many instances it has been limited to an inferior Sum, and the only new Office that has been instituted is that of Civil Auditor which became indispensibly necessary to give effect to our Regulations, by the regular examination and Check of all expenditures in the Civil Departments, and I am persuaded that the Salary which we have annexed to it will appear to you to be a very moderate compensation for the diligent and faithful discharge of so responsible a duty.

11. The augmentation of Salaries which we have recommended for the Members of the Board of Revenue will merit your attentive and favourable consideration. It is of the utmost importance for your Service that Revenue Servants of experience and abilities should be induced by liberal allowances to become Members of that Board, and a thorough knowledge of the internal state of the Country as well as uniformity of principle in directing the details of the Collections is of so much real value for the comfort of the Mass of the people, and for the successful realization of your land Revenues, that it cannot fail to promote the public good to render the situation of the two Senior Members (upon whose able conduct so much must depend) so advantageous that they may have no wish to be removed to any other Office under the Government.

12. The additional labour and responsibility which has been given to the Office of Accountant General, has like wise a strong claim to your particular attention, and I cannot avoid saying that there is no Salary which can with propriety be annexed to that Office but what must fall short of a due reward for the ability, Zeal, and integrity with which Mr. Larkins the present holder of it, discharges it's laborious duties.

13. The Union of the Treasuries has likewise added considerably to the duties of the Sub-Treasurer who has now the sole charge of

that department. And tho' I do not consider them as by any means comparable either in labour or responsibility to those of the Office that I have just mentioned, yet I think it my duty to say that there would in my opinion be a propriety in making some augmentation likewise to the Salary of that Office.

14. A considerable convenience had no doubt arisen to this Government during the last eighteen Months from having obtained the loan of Twenty lacks of Rupees at an Interest of 8 Per cent from the General Bank, I have however always considered it as still more useful to the Public that individuals instead of being obliged to sell the Company's paper in their possession, have often been able to supply their temporary wants by lodging it as a security for loans from the Bank which by diminishing the quantity of that paper in the Market has I conceive in some measure contributed to reduce the former ruinous rate of discount.

15. The known connexion of the Bank with Government could not fail to increase the ability of the Bank to make these loans by extending it's credit; But the Directors of the Bank being of opinion that this advantage did not compensate the loss which they sustained by furnishing Government with so large a Sum at a rate so much under the legal interest of this Country, and the Board from a confidence in the present state of our own credit and finances, seeing no good reason to induce them to give the Bank more advantageous terms it was mutually and amicably agreed to dissolve the Connexion. The Twenty lacks of Rupees have been accordingly repaid by Government, Bank Notes have ceased to be received at the Treasury, all payments on account of the public are now made, as formerly, by our own Offices.

16. The mischiefs and losses occasioned by the inundations of last Season and by the tremendous Storm of the 2nd of last November as well as the miseries of many of the poor inhabitants of several of the lower Districts, have proved to be much more extensive than was for some time apprehended. I am extremely sorry to say that notwithstanding the early precaution of laying an Embargo upon the exportation of grain, the humane and liberal subscriptions of individuals of this Settlement, and every possible exertion of Government to alleviate their distresses by drawing supplies from the districts that have escaped those calamities, a considerable number of the old and infirm who could not labour and of others of the poorest Classes of the people, have in several parts of the Country, and particularly in the Province of Dacca, perished from want. It is however some satisfaction that the Revenue Collections have not fallen considerably into balance; And tho' the Investment has suffered some interruption from those distresses, I am still in great hopes that it will not fall much short of the extent which was ordered for the Season.

17. The Sensations that have been occasioned by the sufferings of such multitudes of poor people, I acknowledge, have been painful; But I now feel a peculiar gratification in observing that the accounts of the appearance of the Crop are so favourable from most parts of

the Country that they give us the pleasing prospect soon of seeing our present wants succeeded by the comforts of abundance.

18. Our Salt Manufacture likewise received considerable injury from that inclement Season. It was found impracticable to make a sufficient quantity for the Consumption of this Country and the price of that Article has consequently continued high at the public Sales.

19. I thought it necessary for the relief of the people to propose to import as soon as possible by Contract, three Lacks of Maunds from the Coast, and no endeavour shall be spared next Season either by Manufacturing as great a quantity as may be possible, or by importing any additional quantity that may appear to be necessary, to Stock these Provinces with a plentiful supply of that indispensable necessary of life.

20. The pretensions of the Committee of the Creditors of the Nabob Wallajah, respecting the mode of their drawing their Share of His Highness's payments, and the manner in which these pretensions were urged to the Government of Fort St. George are objects of such magnitude that they will claim your serious consideration.

21. I have delivered my Sentiments so fully upon the whole Subject in the Minute which I laid before this Board, and also upon the tendency of the opinions which were given by the three junior Members of the Government of Fort St. George, on the Conduct of the Members of the Committee of the Nabob's Creditors who signed the Addresses to this Government, that it is only necessary for me to refer you to that Minute for the grounds on which I proposed the orders that were transmitted from the Supreme Board to the Presidency of Fort St. George.

22. The liberal and conciliatory spirit which I have uniformly experienced from the Judges of the Supreme Court has been a source of great satisfaction to myself and the consequent harmony which subsists between them and the Supreme Government cannot fail of being productive of many benefits to the inhabitants of all descriptions of this Country, I trust that our earnest recommendation that you should endeavour to obtain an extension of powers to your Supreme Government for the better regulating the police and improving the internal Administration of justice in this great City, will have engaged some part of your attention before the arrival of this dispatch.

23. The draft of the Act of Parliament which was promised by the last Ship of the preceeding season will accompany the dispatch from the Board; Considerable pains have been taken to include in it the principal heads which are thought most material for effecting it's professed purposes; And whatever alterations may be necessary in some parts of the detail, you may be assured that the measure in it's substance, is calculated to promote order and happiness amongst the vast multitude of people who compose the inhabitants of this place. I cannot therefore too warmly recommend to you to use your utmost endeavours to obtain for it the Sanction of the Legislature. Many valuable improvements have been made in the Administration of

justice on the interior parts of these possessions but I am obliged to acknowledge that both the Civil and Criminal System and particularly the latter, is yet far short of perfection.

24. Few circumstances have therefore given me a more sincere gratification than the voluntary Public Proposition of Sir William Jones to engage in the arduous undertaking of translating and forming a Compilation of Hindu and Mussulman Laws from the highest and most approved authorities of the respective Religions to be applied for the use and guidance of our native Courts of Justice.

25. The thorough knowledge which Sir William has acquired of the Eastern languages joined to the extent of his literature and the strength of his natural abilities constitute qualifications for executing the Work that he has undertaken, which perhaps cannot in any other man be paralleled; And considering it singularly fortunate for this Government to be able to obtain the assistance of such a person, I could make no hesitation in granting from the Public purse the moderate Monthly Sum that he required for defraying several Articles of Contingent expence, but particularly for allowing Salaries to some learned and eminent Moulavies and Pundits during the time that he might have occasion to employ them in selecting and the Extracting the most salutary of their respective laws from the numerous Volumes in which they are at present dispersed.

26. It is calculated by Sir William Jones that this Work may be executed in two Years And if it can be accomplished according to the original Plan, it will justly render the name of it's Author dear to the Natives of this Country, by enabling their European Rulers to govern them according to their own ideas of humanity and justice.

27. I have great satisfaction in congratulating your Honble. Court on the Acquisition of the Guntoor Circar<sup>1</sup> to the Company. Former transactions respecting the Guntoor had persuaded me of the Nizam's disinclination to relinquish that Circar and I had therefore been induced since my arrival in this Country, by several considerations which related to the Public affairs of India, as well as to those of Europe to decline touching upon a subject which it was more than probable would be offensive to that Prince, and especially at a time when it would not have been prudent to have employed our power if found necessary to enforce our demand.

28. The friendly communications which we had established with several of the Native Powers had obviated part of my reasons for delay; But the accounts which I received of the Settlement of the Affairs of Holland, by removing all hazard of interference from any European power, presented a singularly favourable opportunity for accomplishing our purpose, which I thought it my duty to embrace.

29. I therefore without loss of time, dispatched Captain Kennaway one of my Aides de Camp in whose prudence and ability I could confide, to Hyderabad; with Instructions to demand from the Nizam the full execution of the Treaty which he made with the Company in the Year 1768.

30. Captain Kennaway was also instructed to give the most solemn assurances that every stipulation on our part should be performed with the utmost punctuality and honour, and indeed I consider this to be as necessary for our real interest, as it is indispensable for the Credit of the National Character.

31. At the same time however tho' our right by Treaty, to the Circar was indisputable, and I was ready to adjust the Public Account with His Highness in the fairest and most liberal manner, I thought it proper in addition to every conciliating Argument that could be founded upon the faith of treaties and the general principles of justice, to take all other precautions that might be in my power to secure us against disappointment in obtaining our proposed object. On account of the Nizam's known disposition and talents for intrigue it appeared to be a very necessary caution to avoid giving him time to consult with any of his Neighbours upon means of opposition, by leaving him only a short interval after our demand, to declare his decision, and by assembling a considerable body of troops in the neighbourhood under other pretexts to be in readiness, when necessary, to give way to our application and to take possession of the Circar when surrendered. The able and judicious manner in which the measures were executed that depended upon Sir Archibald Campbell, deserves my warmest acknowledgements; And I am happy to say that the means which we took have had the fortunate effect of inducing the Nizam after very moderate signs of reluctance to surrender the Circar to the Company's Servants, who are now in possession of it.

32. I have repeated my Instructions to Captain Kennaway to conduct himself to His Highness with the utmost Complacency and to spare no pains to convince him of the sincerity of our professions to execute the terms of the Treaty on our part in the most punctual and honorable manner, and I trust that we shall succeed in establishing a cordial and friendly connexion between His Highness's and the Company's Government.

33. The late Revolutions at Delhi and the barbarities exercised there by Gholam Kadir Khan<sup>2</sup> and his Rohillas, and particularly in deposing and putting out the Eyes of Shah Allum have been shocking to the feelings of humanity; But as all parties have been equally careful to offer no injury or insult to this Government or to our Ally the Vizier, and as none of these transactions appeared to effect in any degree your political interests, it became our Public duty to remain neutral Spectators of Scenes, in which, from the dictates of private feelings, there would have been the strongest inducements to interfere.

34. The Political appearances in other quarters give us no reason to apprehend that the tranquility of your possessions in India is likely soon to be disturbed.

35. I trust that it is unnecessary for me to be at much pains to assure you of my constant and earnest desire to avoid and discourage in every shape, all kinds of superfluous expenditure of the Public

Money. I am persuaded that your Honble. Court cannot be more averse than I am to put the Company to the heavy Charge which attends the dispatch of Packets unless when requisite for evident purposes of Public utility, Independent of the effect which your injunctions against the dispatch of a Packet might have had upon my determination. I should have been prevented last Season from adopting that measure, by the uncertainty with which I must have spoken respecting the business of the Guntoor, during the period in which it would have been proper that the Packet should have sailed. I must however fully acknowledge that on account of the long interval between the dispatch of the last Ship of one Season and that of the first of the following, added to the uncertainty and tediousness of dispatches over land, it is my decided opinion which I submit to your judgement, that hardly any one year can elapse in which the advantages that may arise to the Company's Government both at home and abroad from receiving mutual accounts from each other in or about the Month of January of each Year, will not render it an expedient measure to incur the expence of dispatching a Packet in the course of the Month of August, both from Europe and from Bengal. Upon this occasion, it is proper that I should state to you that a doubt has arisen in the minds of the Company's Law Officers whether the Act of Parliament will admit of any of the produce or Manufactures of this Country being landed in England from a Vessel not *British built*, although such Vessel may be employed as a Packet in your Service.

36. I request that you will be pleased to favour me with a legal opinion of authority upon that point, as it is of considerable consequence for your interests. Several of the Merchants of this place are so much convinced that raw Cotton might be exported from hence with advantage to England, that I have reason to believe that on condition of their being permitted to Ship a Cargo of Cotton, some of them would engage to carry home a Packet in a good and sufficient Vessel, not only without requiring any allowance for that Service, but would also agree to pay a reasonable duty upon the Cotton itself, to the Company.

37. An earnest desire to give you the most compleat information in my power, of every transaction of this Government, and of the general state of your affairs in this Country, has on this occasion obliged me to trespass greatly upon your time, on account of the long interval which has elapsed since my last dispatch by a Sea conveyance. I have however thought that I should render my correspondence the less burdensome to you, by stating in separate letters what I have occasion to say on your appointment of Mr. John Murray to be Commissary General with the rank of Colonel. On several points which relate to your Military department and on the most expedient principles to be established for the future provision of your Investments in this Country.

38. As Mr. Shore who is so perfectly Master of the Business of your Revenue Department and whose general Sentiments and principles for the management of it have my entire concurrence, proposes to lay that subject fully before you by an early conveyance it becomes unnecessary for me to enter into any particular discussion

of it. I shall therefore only remark in general that from frequent changes of System or other reasons much is wanting to establish good order and regulation in the internal business of the Country, and that from various causes by far the greatest part of the Zemindars and other Landholders and Renters are fallen into a state much below that of wealth and affluence. This Country however when the fertility of it's Soil and the industry and ingenuity of it's numerous inhabitants are taken into consideration must unquestionably be admitted to be one of the finest in the world, and with an uniform attention in Government to moderation in exaction and to a due administration of justice, may long prove a source of great riches both to the Company and to Britain.

39. I am persuaded that by a train of judicious measures the Land Revenue of these Provinces is capable in time of being increased; But consistent with the principles of humanity and even of those of your own real interests, it is only by adopting means for the gradual Cultivation and improvement of the waste lands and by a gentle and cautious plan for the resumption of Lands that have been fraudulently alienated, that it ought ever to be attempted to be accomplished. Men of speculative and sanguine dispositions and others either from ignorance of the subject or with views of recommending themselves to your favour, may confidently hold forth specious grounds to encourage you to hope that a great and immediate accession to that branch of your Revenue might be practicable. My public duty obliges me to caution you in the most serious manner against listening to Propositions which recommend this Attempt, because I am clearly convinced that if carried into execution, they would be attended with most baneful consequences.

40. Desperate Adventurers without Fortune or Character would undoubtedly be found, as has already been too often experienced, to Rent the different Districts of the Country at the highest rates that could be put upon them; that the delusion would be of short duration, and the impolicy and inhumanity of the plan would perhaps when too late for effectual remedy, become apparent by the Complaints of the people, and the disappointments at the Treasury in the payments of the Revenue, and would probably terminate in the ruin and depopulation of the unfortunate Country.

I have the honor to be with great Respect.

Fort William

November 3d. 1788.

Honble Sirs

your most Obedient and  
Most humble Servant  
Cornwallis

[Endorsed]

Letter from Lord Cornwallis  
to the Court of Directors  
dated 3. Novemr. 1788  
(General)

Reced. Per m. Pitt.

the 26th March 1789.

[Bengal Letters Received, Vol. 27, pp. 273-298]

39

## LETTER DATED 6 NOVEMBER 1788

*Payment of Sir John Macpherson's salary suspended—committee for surveying New Harbour submits its report—copies of Gilchrist's Hindustani Dictionary sent—fees for use of mooring chains at Diamond Harbour—plea for exempting investments of ships' captains from payment of import duties—other shipping details—additional funds for Madras owing to failure of revenue from Masulipatam—obstructions to Company's shipping on Malabar Coast by Raghoji Angria and the Malwans—reduction of establishment charges at Fort Marlbro—export of indigo on Company's ships permitted for three years—investment in new variety of silk—cloth from Benares— inquiry into malpractices in Dacca investment—recovery of balances due from Keighly and others—all offices under Commercial Department to be concentrated in the old fort—reduction in custom duties at Benares—provision of funds for China and Penang—office of Civil Auditor established—vessels from Bombay to be coppered—William Barton's offer of Rs. 1 lakh for withdrawing prosecution against him rejected—further legal action against other guilty Members of Board of Trade—draft bill re. Calcutta Police despatched—Indian lawyers to compile digest of Hindu and Muslim law under guidance of Sir William Jones—Indians insist on conveying their appreciation of Warren Hastings to Court of Directors—reasons for postponing permanent revenue settlement of Bengal—requests of Midnapore zamindars for revenue remissions turned down—settlement with Rajshahi zamindari—scarcity of grain at Dacca—repair of embankments—abolition of government custom duties—salt workers allowed choice of other professions.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Indies.

Honble Sirs,

Para 1st. Your ship William Pitt being under Dispatch to Europe, We have the Honour to transmit to you a Detail of the several transactions which have passed in the Military, Public and Revenue Departments since we wrote to you on the 6th March last by the Rodney, but, before we enter upon these subjects, we shall request your attention to two or three Points, which we think necessary for your Information, altho' taken from those Proceedings which are sent to the Secret Committee.

*Military\**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Public Dept.*

109. Our Dispatches of the 5th of June, by the way of Bussorah, acknowledged the receipt of your General Letter of the 24th of November 1787 per Barwell your ships, which have since arrived, brought to us your further Orders of the 28th March and 9th April 1788, and your Secretary's Letter[s] of the following dates.

8th February 1788

29th March

31st Do.

8th April

10th Do.

110. Your Public and Commercial Letters\*falling under consideration in the Department, we shall consider them under their Distinct Heads. Our replies to such Paragraphs as require them, and a Communication of the Orders which we have passed upon others will precede [sic] our general advices upon the different subjects of moment, which have passed since the Departure of the Rodney. Those points of your Directions which the Lapse of time since their receipt has enabled us to complete, will be noticed entirely in this place with a reference to the Consultations in which they have been progressively discussed.

*Public General Letter dated 21st Novemr. 1787*

111. Paras 1, 2, 3, 4. Do not require any answer.

*Public General Letter dated 28th March 1788*

112. Para 1 Needs no answer.

113. Para. 2 } Copies of these Paragraphs were sent to the  
 3 } Master Attendant and Naval Store Keeper for  
 4 } their Information and Guidance as far as they  
 5 } were respectively concerned an Officer of the  
 6 } Engineer Corps has been appointed to make the  
 7 } Draughts required in the 6th and will furnish a  
 Copy of that already prepared of Diamond Harbour, both which will be sent to you as soon as completed.

114. (Para 8) A Copy of this Paragraph was sent to the Naval Store Keeper for his Guidance.

115. (Para 9) This Paragraph was communicated to the Board of Trade.

116. (Para 10) The information required in this Paragraph with the List of Stores sent to Bencoolen in the Lord Hawkesbury, will be duly attended to when the Indents from that Residency shall be under consideration.

\*See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. XIX, for paragraphs relating to the Military Department.

117. (Para 11, 12). The Organ intended for the New Church [was received ?] by the William Pitt. It will be put together with the assistance of Mr. Welsh, who arrived in the Phoenix, and is appointed to the Duty of Organist with a salary of Sa. Rs. 150 P Month his Letter to us upon this Subject will appear in our Proceedings of the 15th of September.

118. (Para 13). This Paragraph was communicated to our Marine Officers with Directions to propose such Plan as upon due consideration, they should conceive to be most eligible and effectual for the accomplishment of your wishes.

119. (Paras 14, 15, 16, 17). These Paragraphs were published in the Gazette the Injunctions which they contain shall be attended to as far as they relate Servants proceeding to England in the Company's ships, and as far as they respect the Civil and Military Servants of the Company returning to England by a foreign Conveyance.

120. (Paras 18, 19). The resolutions passed by your Hon'ble Court in Consequence of the Duel between Sir John Macpherson and Major Brown have been published.

121. (Para 20). In the 115 and 116 Paragraph of our Letter P. Busbridge, you were informed of our having put a stop to the further issue of Sir John Macphersons Salary to his attornies, and of the reasons which induced us to adopt that measure.

122. Upon a supposition that the sum of CRs. 50,000 should be paid to Sir John Macpherson as a compensation for his Loss of Time and in order to defray his charge and Expences to the Cape of Good Hope, if his Salary ceased on his leaving Bengal which was not the case, we required from the Civil Paymaster a statement of the exact amount paid to his Attornies in Bengal in Certificates and Cash from the Period of dispatching the ship in which he embarked to the Time at which any advances to them were stopped according to our resolutions already mentioned.

123. This Statement proving that Sir John Macpherson's Attornies had actually received CRs. 7563-11-4 in Cash and Certificates, exceeding the Donation which you authorized to be made to him on his Arrival in Bengal, we deemed, it proper to furnish them with a Copy of your Instructions upon the Subject and to call upon them to refund the Excess; deferring, at the same time, any Consideration of a Question that might possibly arise with respect to the repayment of the larger Sum, or CRs. 50,000, in the Case of Sir John Macpherson's not returning. His Attornies have informed us, in reply, that they are not possessed of Authority from their Constituent to comply with the application, we have therefore desired them to state the Circumstances to him, and obtain the necessary Instructions without delay.

124. (Para 21, 22). These Intimations will be attended to in the Correspondence with Canton.

125. Mr Lacam arrived in Bengal in your ship Lord Macartney, and soon afterwards presented a Memorial to us, recapitulating the various Proceedings and Discussions which had passed, both here and in England, upon the subject of New Harbour, from the Month

of October 1775 to the Present time. This memorial, with the subsidiary Papers, is recorded in our Proceedings of the 22d. of September. With this before us, your Orders of the 21st July 1786 (Para 17 and 18) were considered. They appeared to us to include two Points.

1st. The Expediency of making a Dock or Docks, at a New Harbour either by the Company or an Authorized Individual.

2d. In the Event of our superseding the propositions made by Mr. Lacam, and considering that the Plan should be executed by the Company or relinquished altogether, what Compensation we should think reasonable to be made to Mr. Lacam for the Disappointing of his Prospects and the resignation of his present claims.

126. Of these points the one stated first in Order being most material in a public view, we resolved in the first instance that a Survey should be made of new Harbour, and of the Channel leading to it and to appoint a respectable Committee, consisting of Gentlemen of professional Experience in the different Branches of such a survey. These were the Master Attendant.

Mr. Allen, his appointed successor, an Officer of the Engineer Corps, Three of the Commanders of your ships, now in this River.

Lieutenant Popham of his Majestys Navy whose Services upon this occasion were requested, Lieutenant Blair of the Bombay Marine, Captain Buchanan, Commander of the Ranger Packet; Those of the Oldest Inhabitants, who have been in the Sea Line, and are most conversant in the Navigation of the River; Three of the Oldest Pilots, and some of the People who attended Mr. Ritchie on his Survey of New Harbour and Channel Creek; and Mr. Lacam was requested to accompany them.

127. The following were pointed out as the principal objects of their Investigation.

1st. Whether the Channel from New Harbour out to sea, and to the Harbour from Sea is safe and practicable for the Navigation of large Ships or by what means it can be made so.

2d. Whether new Harbour is a proper Place for the reception of his Majestys and the Company's ships.

3rdly Whether the place is proper and Eligible for the Construction of dry Docks.

128. These points involved many other objects of Enquiry, some of Cons. 26th Sept. which the Instructions to the Surveyor detailed; 29th Do. others were unavoidably dependant upon the Discretion, ability, & Perseverance of the Conductors of it.

129. Every information to assist them which the records of Government could furnish and all the Instruments and Stores, which were deemed requisite, were amply supplied, and we had no Doubt, from the respectable Characters employed, that a careful unbiassed, and full report would be obtained, both as to the practicability of Mr. Lacam's Plan, and the means, if it were practicable of carrying it into complete Execution.

130. The Gentlemen proceeded on their Commission, and having executed it delivered their report, the consideration of which we have been obliged to defer on account of more pressing Business.

(Para 24). Mr. Lacam's Bond is deposited in our Treasury the conditions of it shall be attended to as soon as it becomes due.

131. (Para 25, 26). Need no reply.

132. (Para 27). The censure conveyed in the Paragraph has been communicated to Mr. Neave, who will bear the  
13th. Augt. Expence of sending his late Servant John Hossen, to Europe. He quitted Mr. Neaves Service on his arrival in Bengal, and is now a Sheriff's officer. He has had notice of our Intention to send him to England by one of the first Ships.

133. (Para 28). The subject of this Paragraph has been considered in the Foreign Department.

134. (Paras. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34). Need no reply.

135. (Para. 35). Two Boxes containing Ninetytwo Copies of the first part of Mr. Gilchrist's Hindostanee Dictionary are shipped in the William Pitt.

136. (Paras. 36, 37, 38, 39). Need no reply.

137. (Para. 40). You may be assured that we shall continue to  
Consn. 25th June forbear, as we have done, from sending Packets to Europe, except on such urgent Occasions as make it very expedient.

138. (Para. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46). Need no reply.

139. (Para. 47). We beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings noted in the Margin for detailed Information, of the  
Consn. 25th June measures which we deemed it adviseable to adopt and which we hope will answer the Purposes of ascertaining what British Subjects proceed to India without the Company's License.

140. (Para. 48). Your Acquiescence in Mr. Hardwick's request was made known to him.

141. Paras. 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57). Need no immediate reply, except that your Order in the 51st. relative to the Charges for Prince of Wales Island shall be duly attended to.

142. (Para. 58). This Paragraph was communicated to the Marine Officers. The Subject will be further discussed in the course of this address.

143. (Paras. 59 @ 73). Need no reply.

144. (Para 74). Our advices to the Secret Committee of your Hon'ble Court, have long since mentioned that the Agent deputed by the Nabob of Arcot to the Court of Poona was recalled.

145. (Para. 75 @ 100). Need no reply except the 92 upon which we beg leave to assure you that, as soon as the continuance of Meer Mahomed Hosseign at Hyderabad shall be deemed inexpedient in a political View, we shall relieve the Company from the Expense attending it.

146. (Para. 101 @ 106). Our Proceedings in the Secret and Separate Department will acquaint you with the Grounds upon which we Advertized for Proposals to furnish by Contract such Articles of  
Consn. 12th. Sepr. Stationary, as might be required for the different  
„ 26th. Do. Departments under our Government, in Excess of

your Consignments to this Presidency. Four proposals were tended, and the lowest, according to a Calculation made by your Accountant General, were Agreed to. The Proposals and Calculation will appear in our Consultation noted in the Margin and a Copy of the Contract attends you in the Packet.

147. (Par 107). Needs no Reply.

148. (Par. 108, 109). According to the Direction in the last of these Paragraphs, your Resolutions regarding Pensions to your Servants of different Ranks, and the Grounds upon which they are to be allowed have been published.

149. (Par 110, 111). Need no reply.

150. (Par 112). The Attornies of Sir Elijah Impey, in pursuance of Instructions from their Constituent, had tendered previous to our Receipt of this Letter, a Refund of the Cash and Certificates which had been issued to them on account of the Chief Justice's Salary after the 1st. of November 1787, The Day on which his Resignation was accepted in England, and we accordingly directed that it should be received with Interest upon the Cash Advances from the Several Periods at which the Payments had been made, but, in Consequence of a further Representation from them, that the Demand of interest, if inforced, would be a real Loss to their Constituent, as the Money had not been employed, and as charges of this kind were not always usual in such Cases, We were induced to dispense with our Original Intention The Salary allowed to the Chief Justice's Clerk, Moonshey or Interpreter, and Tipstaff [his staff] ceased from the End of June.

Consn. 27th June

Consn. 28th July

151. (Par 113). The Bills upon your Hon'ble Court, in the Terms authorized by this Paragraph, will be granted.

152. (Par 114, 115, 116). These Paragraphs have been considered in the Revenue Department and will be answered from it.

Public Letter dated the 9th of April 1788.

153. Immediately on Receipt of this Letter, your marine Officers were furnished with a Copy of it, and required to report what they would deem a reasonable Charge for mooring Chains only, or the Chains and half a Bungsaul, in the present Circumstances relative to Diamond Harbour.

154. This Order to your Marine Officers gave Rise to a Meeting between them and the Commanders of your Ships when a paper was submitted to them recapitulating every Circumstance and relative to the Mooring Chains & ca. since the plan was first adopted, and as such Calculations, founded on actual Experience, as, with proper Consideration both for the Company's and the Owners' Interest, appeared to Sanction a proposition made to the Commanders that they should have the use of the Chains and the Accommodations on Shore at the Monthly Charge of 800 Rs. in the Proportion of 600, for the former and 200 for the latter.

Consn. 12th Sept.

155. Three of your Commanders immediately declined acceding to the Terms. Their Reasons are stated in their Letters; and we are given to understand that all the Captains were nearly of the same Opinion. The Offers which they made being much below the Sum required, it became a question whether the Pains taken, and the Expence incurred in these Works at Diamond Harbour, should at once be alienated from their original Purpose, and applied to other uses, as suggested by your Marine Officers, or whether the Disposition of the Captains to accommodate should be again tried by a proposal of reduced Terms.

Consn. 12th Sept.

156. The latter was deemed most advisable, and an Offer was accordingly made to them of the use of the Mooring Chains, to which was added that, of the Powder Magazine, for five instead of Six hundred Rupees P. Month to be paid here upon a Settlement of Accounts, from the Charter Party Monthly Advance which they are severally obliged to receive.

157. In the meantime a Survey was ordered to be taken of the Mooring Tackle imported this Season and proper Persons were directed to State the condition in which they found it your Board of Trade were called upon for their Opinion with regard to the use to which the Hospital and Banksauls might be appropriated in the Commercial Department.

158. Your Commanders declined to accede to the reduced Terms. We have, however directed 500 Rupees P. Month to be charged for those Ships that have taken the Moorings from necessity and that the Amount should be deducted from the Charter Party Allowance. The Board of Trade have informed us that the Buildings on Shores can only be partially used by them consistently with other Arrangements for the Commercial Department: Such therefore as they may wish to occupy will be delivered to them.

Consn. 5th Nov.

159. A Copy of the Survey of the Mooring Tackle attends you in the Packet, and we shall hereafter inform you of the ultimate Resolutions. We may think it necessary to adopt in the Event of the original Plan's being entirely relinquished. All the Correspondence upon this subject forms a Number in the present Dispatch, and we leave it to make its own Impression.

160. Your Secretarys Letter of the 8th February 29th and 31st March need no reply. The Copper Coins received in the Airly Castle, as advised in the Letter of the 8th April will be forwarded to Fort Marlbro the Bill granted in favor of Mr. John Debonaire, and notified in the Letter of the 10th April, has been duly honoured.

161. By this Conveyance you will receive Duplicates of our Letter P. Rodney and Via Bassorah, and our Consultations in the Public Department with Indexes from the 4th March to the 29th of October. We shall now proceed to recapitulate such subjects necessary for your Information, as appear upon them subsequent to our last General Dispatch.

## Company's Ships

162. The Princess Amelia was quitted by her Pilot on the 8th March arrived at Fort St. George on the [.....] and was finally dispatched to Europe on the [.....]

163. The Rodney was quitted by her Pilot on the 13th of March. The Agent for dispatching that Ship delivered to Consn. 19th. March Captain Chatfield his sailing Orders within the Charter Party period, and protested against him, in due form, for not sailing, a Copy of the Protest was forwarded to your Secretary.

164. The Princess Royal arrived at Bombay on the 11th February and having received on Board 300 Bales was finally dispatched to Europe on the 22d. of the same Month a Protest was made at Bombay against Captain Hornecastle on his refusal to receive all the Bales which they wished to embark Vizt 465.

165. Your Ships of this Season have severally imported here as follows :—

Phoenix on the	18th.	July.
Kent . . .	19	Do
William Pitt .	25	Do
Manship . .	25	Do
Triton . . .	25	Do
Airly Castle .	25	August
Lord. Macartney	25	Do
Northumberland	25	October

166. Their Order for dispatch to Europe being now regulated according to their respective Commencement of Demurrage, The Madras Ships, which reached that Presidency sooner than any that arrived in Bengal, consequently obtain Precedence in the periods of Disparture [sic] from hence. The following Arrangement has been fixed for the Dispatch of the Ships of this Season, upon an Estimate delivered to us by the Export Ware house Keeper, and made upon a rough Calculation of the expected times of the Receipts of your Investment.

Order of Dispatch	Name of the Ships	Cargo	Distination [sic]	Day of Dispatch from Bengal
1.	William Pitt	Full Cargoe	Europe direct	10th Novr. 1788
2.	Manship	½ Cargo	Fort St. George & Europe.	1st December
3.	Triton	Full Cargo	Europe direct	15th Do.
4.	Kent	Do.	Do.	1st January 1789
5.	Phoenix	Do.	Vizagapatam Fort St. George and Europe	15th Do.
6.		Do.	Europe direct	10th February
7.		½ Cargo	Fort St. George and Europe	20th February
8.		Full Cargo	Europe direct	10th March

N.B.—The three last Ships were not at first named, as it was not ascertained when they severally arrived at their first Consigned Port

in India and it could not therefore be known from what Period they would come upon Demurrage but our Advices from Bombay now enable us to supply this Omission. The Northumberland will be the 6[th] Ship,—The Dublin the 7th—the Lord Macartney the 8th.

The Bengal Cargo of the Manship has been increased at the desire of Sir Archibald Campbell, and only 100 Tons will be left to be filled up at Fort St. George. The Bengal Cargo of the other Madras ship will of course be proportionably less that she may fill up at that Presidency with the Goods that were to have been taken in the Manship.

167. The Airly Castle, being properly a Bencoolen Ship, is excluded from this Arrangement.

168. On the Arrival of your different ships, the Commanders preferred a request to us that their Investments should be exempted from the established import Duties, in Consideration of hardships to which they were unavoidably subjected from the bad state of the Markets. Your Orders of the [.....] prevented us from complying with their Application in the fullest Extent, as from Conviction of their probable Losses we disposed. But we have directed the Duties to be levied upon the prime Cost only of the Goods, omitting the Advance of 60 P. Cent at which it had been the Custom of former years to collect them, and We take the liberty of recommending strongly to favorable Consideration of your Honourable Court that you will authorize a refund of the whole Amount.

169. The difficulties, which your Commanders have been reduced to, are to be in some Degree attributed to their long Detention in England beyond the Periods originally settled for their Sailing, a Detention, which afforded to Foreigners a great Advantage in coming earlier to Market, Solicitation from the Supra Cargoes of some of those Ships to be put upon the same Footing in point of Duties with your own Officers have for the foregoing and other Reasons been rejected.

Fort St. George & Bombay Presidencies And Island of St. Helena.

170. The Governor in Council at Fort St. George will (we have no Doubt) particularly inform you of the Failure in the Revenue expected to have been realized in the Masulipatam Districts, the Cause of that Failure, and the difficulties and Embarrassments to which it gives rise. These were reported to us in a Letter dated the 12th. of March, which accompanied a Minute from Sir Archibald Campbell. In that Letter your Governor in Council expressed his apprehensions that he should be unavoidably compelled to lessen the Advances for the Coast Investment unless furnished with Additional Aid by us, or from the Produce of Bills upon the Court of Directors to be drawn at a higher Rate of Exchange than you had Authorized.

171. We objected to the last Proposition as a Diviation [sic] from your Orders, and as we conceived it might interfere with the Transfer of the Public Debt, which we considered to be a measure of the utmost Importance for the Prosperity of the Nation and the Company.

172. Notwithstanding the Inconveniencies to which it subjected us, we deemed it unavoidably requisite to put the Investment of that Presidency in a progressive state of Improvement, and on that Account we authorized the Government there to draw upon us for a sum not exceeding five Lacs of Rupees on the most favourable Terms, independent of the annual supply which was specified in our Letter of the 17th of August 1787 to be Appropriated to the express purpose of providing Coast Goods. Their Bills drawn at the Exchange of 383 Arcot Rupees 1 Pr. % were Accepted, and discharged as they became due.

Consn. 30th June  
14th July

173. Your Ships Minerva and Lord Camden imported at Bombay with the Troops sent thither from Madras. The former was offered to the Agents of Messrs. Price and Co. as soon as it was fully ascertained that she could not be supplied with an immediate Cargo for Europe, but the offer was declined by them. The latter, as soon as she arrived was tendered to them, and taken upon the Terms settled by us, Vizt. Payment of the Daily Demurrage until the ship should be delivered up in China.

Consn. 25 June

174. Your President in Council at Bombay, without adverting to the Circumstances under which these Ships were only eventually engaged to the House of Price and Co. have observed that the Terms are not so favourable to the Company, as in all probability would have been obtained, if the ships had been let out to freight at a certain Rate P. Candy of Cotton. This may possibly be true; but, in reply to it, We deem it sufficient to remark That We had not any Intimation from Bombay that a Provision was or could be made for the Employ of any Bengal Surplus Tonnage either to Europe or China. That the Terms were such as had been thought reasonable for the Hillsborough and Lansdown, the preceding year, and which have since been approved by your Honourable Court; That our sole object was to relieve the Company from Demurrage after conveying Stores and Troops to Bombay, and that reserve was finally made, in the Event of a probability of Consignments to Europe or China on your own Account Our Agreement was a certainty. and therefore preferable to any Contingency even if the difference between the freight and demurrage had been greater.

Consn. 9 June

175. Complaints have been communicated to us from Bombay of various obstructions occasioned by Ragojee Angria and the Malwans on the Malabar Coast, to Ships and Vessels belonging to British subjects; and Retaliation was proposed to us to be authorized in the Event of the Poona Governments disavowing Angria's Proceedings, or of the Malwans not giving Satisfaction Much Caution was promised in the Exercise of such authority, if granted.

Consn. 30th May

176. With respect to the Conduct of Ragojee Angria, We have only thought proper to inform the Gentlemen at Bombay of the Directions which we had given to Mr. Malet previous to the arrival of their Representations; but we have authorized Reprisals, as the last

Consn. 10 S<sup>pr</sup>, Resource, against the Malwans in the Event of those People not having [sic] giving satisfaction for the offered to the English Flag, and Whenever they may in future merit Punishment for Similar Acts.

177. Our Supplies to St. Helena by the Ships of last Season amounted to Current Rupees 19,831-0-4 and We hope that, with the small addition consigned in the Princess Amelia from Fort St. George, they have proved ample.

Indent from your Government on that Island, for the next Season, has been received, and we trust, as the Management of the supply is now committed to your Board of Trade that there will be no cause for further Complaints.

#### Fort Marlbro'

178. Your Dispatches for Fort Marlborough by the Ranger Packet were forwarded to that Residency within a few Days after their Arrival in Bengal on the 31st March. We wrote to Consn. 28th Feby your Servants there on the subjects of them, and on points of Correspondence in Reference to us from the Deputy Governor and Council.

179. This Letter contains the Arrangement of every Branch of your Business at that Settlement and its Subordinates, and directions founded upon your Orders and every local Information that we were able to obtain to put the Establishment upon a footing of Oeconomy Security and Advantage. On perusing the Letter above mentioned you will observe some Points which we have promised to refer to your Consideration. The Principal one Relates to the Salaries paid to the Civil Servants which, tho' exceeding the Amount drawn in 1757. We have not scrupled to declare moderate in our Opinions, and to express our hopes that you would not disapprove of their Continuance.

180. Our Dispatches to Fort Marlbro' were closed and forwarded by the Greyhound Bombay Cruiser, which was waiting for them at the Entrance of the River, when We received a Packet from that Residency, Via Fort St. George containing a Plan  
 Sept. Procg. for reducing the Expences of the Establishment as  
 9th April proposed by the Deputy Governor, which having met with the concurrence of his Council had been carried into execution.

181. An Answer to this Dispatch was immediately prepared in the hopes that it might be in Time to overtake the Grayhound. In this we expressed ourselves pleased at the evident attention which had been shewn by the Deputy Governor in his Examination into the State of your Affairs under his Superintindance, and we declared our approbation of many parts of the Reform which had taken place.

182. Our Letter to your Servants at Bencoolen will acquaint you with the particular points that we either approved, corrected, or left entirely to their Management, as involved in local Circumstances, to

which our Information could not extend. It was too late to overtake the Grayhound, and therefore from Necessity was sent to Fort St. George to be conveyed by the first Opportunity from that Presidency.

### Commercial Affairs

183. Your Letter dated the 21st of November 1787 comes first under Consideration under this Head of our Advices by the William Pitt.

184. (Par. 1). Does not require any answer.

[185]. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. These Paragraphs were sent to your Board of Trade, with the Contract entered into for Madeira Wine with Messrs. Searle and Co. which is adverted to in the 4th and on the 22d. of August they submitted to us a Report upon that part of the Madeira Wine which was imported in the Phoenix with a Computation of its ultimate Cost, as well as of the probable Loss which the Company would sustain by disposing of it on their own Account. This Computation sufficiently evinced the propriety of rejecting it as allowed by the Agreement on the part of the Company and of Ordering it to be sold for the original Proprietors. We passed Resolutions accordingly.

186. The Report above mentioned is forwarded a Number in the Packet and We beg leave to request your attention to the Observation at the Close of it, which is fully proved to be just from a Comparison of the prices paid for your Madeira in former years, and the great Estimation which it used to bear in this Settlement, with the Imports of the last three years, all of which have been rejected.

187. The Madeira imported in the Airly Castle, tho' a little superior in quality to that received P Phoenix, has been  
 Consn. 8th Oct. rejected for the same Reasons.

188. (Par. 7). Needs no reply.

189. (Par. 8) This Paragraph was communicated to Mr. Wintle, whose Answer to the Censure conveyed in it will  
 Consn. 30th May appear in Consultation noted in the Margin.

190. We are now to reply to your Letter dated the 28th of March 1788.

191. (Par. 1.) Needs no Answer.

192. (Par. 2&3) An addition will be made to the usual Instructions to the Agents for dispatching your Ships, comprehending the Injunctions in these Paragraphs with respect to the quantity of Water and Provision of every kind on board, at the Time of Their Departure, and a Calculation how long it is likely to serve, reckoning the Consumption made by the Passengers and Ships Company.

193. (Para. 4 5, 6.) These Paragraphs were sent to the Military Pay Master General, Receipts in Triplicate will be taken in future for all Payments made to the Commander of your Ships and forwarded

in the manner you have pointed out, as well as attested Copies of those given by Captain Stokes in the year 1783 for the several Sums paid to him.

(Par. 7). The Directions in the Paragraph will be attended to by the Board of Trade.

194. (Par. 8 @ 14). Need no Reply.

195. (Par. 15). Your Sentiments of Mr. Davies expressed in this Paragraph were communicated to that Gentleman.

196. (Par. 16). The Covenants here adverted to were received by the Minerva.

197. (Par. 17, 18.) Need no Reply.

198. )Par. 19.) Mr. Barlows Report upon his Deputation to enquire into the Nature and State of the Trade in the Province of Oude was forwarded to you by the Ships of last Season and our subsequent Advices will have acquainted you with our Sentiments upon that Subject.

199. (20 @ 26). These Paragraphs do not at present require any reply.

200. (Par. 27 @ 50 & 53). These Paragraphs were communicated to the Board of Trade. The Subjects of them relate to Commercial Detail, and will be attended to in the course of their Proceedings.

201. The Engagements made for an Indigo Investment in the present year prevented an immediate Compliance with your Instructions in the 42 and 43 Paragraphs, as far as they relate to a Provision of this Article upon the Companys Account; and our Hopes of a profitable out turn to the Indigo sent home last Season inducing us to suppose it possible that you might relax in some measure from your prohibitory Orders on the Subject of Indigo, we have not published them, but we published that the Trade in the Article was laid open for three years during which time it may be exported by your Servants and others in the Companys Ships in the same manner as was directed when the Indulgence was formerly granted to export, Raw Silk.

202. One years Notice is to be given, previous to a Resumption of this Privilege, and Individuals, who may wish to avail themselves of the License conceded, are required to give Notice,   
 Consn. 22d July by the 1st of December, of the Quuantity they intend to export by the Ships of this Season that Tonnage may be appropriated accordingly.

203. (Par. 51). Needs no reply.

204. (Par. 52.) The Airly Castle will be dispatched to Fort Marlbro' as soon as the Season opens with the Supplies of Ophium and other Stores that may be required for that Residency. With regard to the Quantity of Ophium, it will probably not be so large as that proposed, as we have Reason to believe that a smaller Quantity

will be sufficient; and here it is so productive an Article of Revenue that to send away more than could certainly be disposed of at Bencoolen would be imprudent.

Letter dated 9th April 1788

205. A Copy of this Letter was sent to the Board of Trade, who will of course give such Direction to the Different Officers Subordinate to their Department a will ensure Compliance with the Injunctions continued [sic] in it.

206. In the Consultation noted in the Margin the Proceedings of your Board of Trade upon the different proposals for Indigo Contracts on account of the Investment of 1788 are recorded at length, and to these We beg leave to refer for a full Elucidation of the causes which occasioned delay in the final Arrangement of this Branch of your Concerns, for the Calculations upon which Messrs Harris and Prager formed their Opinions upon the several Musters and Proposals that were submitted to them, and for the subsequent qualified Terms tendered by some of the Manufacturers, which falling within the Reach of accommodation were agreed to.

207. An address of this general nature cannot be expected to contain diffuse discussions or much detail on subjects of this description at any time; It is much less necessary, when from the acknowledged Zeal, Ability, and attention of your Board of Trade, we have not hesitated to confirm their Proceedings.

208. It appearing upon a general Review of the settled Provision of the Investment for this year that a Considerable Deficiency in the proposed Amount might be expected from Circumstances which are detailed in our Proceedings the Board of Trade, after due Investigation of the Probable means of supplying it, submitted to us the different Augmentations intended to be made to the Allotments of such Aurungs as might with reason be expected to furnish additional Cloths. Silk and Indigo were excluded from any Increase, as Silk had failed during the March and April Bunds and the Accounts of Indigo Sales in England were discouraging.

209. We approved of the Additions recommended and entertain Hopes that the small Deficiency which still remained, will be supplied either from further produce at the Cloth Factories beyond their estimated Capability, or from the latter Silk Bunds proving more plentiful. If these necessary precautions should unexpectedly procure an excess upon the Original Allotment of this year the Surplus will be transferred to the next.

210. Subsequent to this Arrangement we authorized your Board of Trade to enter into an Engagement with Mr. Peter Touchet for a small supply of Filature and Bengal Silk to be provided at private Factories, and delivered in time to be exported in the Ships of this Season. Mr. Touchets original Proposals and the alterations made in them by the Board of

Trade, in which Mr. Touchet acquiesced, will appear in our Proceedings noted in the Margin.

211. At the Recommendation of your Board of Trade we have assented to a proposal from Mr. J. Frushard to invest to the Amount of Current Rupees 10,000 in a Species of Silk called Tussa, which is drawn from a wild Cocoon produced in most of the Hilly Countries in Bengal. Mr. Frushard, for Reasons which are stated in his Letter, has delivered a decided Opinion that this Silk will be found of great account to the Manufacturers at home, and these were deemed of Sufficient weight to authorize a Trial in the Amount proposed.

Consn. 2nd Sept.

212. Doctor Irving's Musters' of refined Borax were forwarded to you by the Rodney. That Gentlemen [sic] has since submitted to the Board of Trade a proposal to make an Experiment of it to the Amount of 10,000 Rupees. The Substance of his Proposal and the Grounds upon which the adoption of it was recommended appear in our Consultation of the 22d. of August. We deemed the object of Sufficient consequence to warrant an experiment to the extent above mentioned.

Consn. 22d Augst

213. Mr. Lloyd, soon after his Arrival at Benares was in great expectation, from the Tenders which had been made to him that he should effect Purchases in that Zemindary for Ready Money on the Terms prescribed to him, and, with a Single Deviation from the literal Meaning of his Instructions Vizt. that the Merchants required his Assurances not to disappoint them, when their Goods were brought, the quantity, quality, Price and Time for delivery having been previously adjusted. In that alteration we acquiesced, as neither Advance nor Penalty were required, but we did not admit of the Cloths being exempted from Payment of the established Duties.

Consn. 28th March

" 31st Do.

214. Mr. Lloyd's further Acquaintance with the Weavers of Benares convinced him that their first proposals, tho' Voluntarily made, were not to be relied on. He was now assured that Contracts, or the Agency of Dustore or Dellais, (whose Intervention it is a principle of the present System to abolish in the Provision of the Companys Investment) were necessary, to securing regular Cloths.

Consn. 30th May

" 27th June

215. As an Assent to either of these Modes of providing Goods might have interfered with the Arrangements and Regulations which had been made in the District by Mr. Duncan, and been highly Approved by us, we thought it most adviseable to direct Mr. Lloyd to converse with the Resident, and ascertain his Sentiments on the subject. This was done, and Mr. Lloyd submitted to us at large the Propositions which he made, and the Residents remarks upon each in reply.

216. With a view to promote the object of Government Mr. Duncan deemed it proper to wave [sic] the General Objections that

might be adduced to the Plan proposed, and  
 Consn. 18 July Advances to such Weavers as would voluntarily  
 receive them, or Contracts with Native Merchants,  
 were therefore allowed under certain Restrictions, according to which  
 Consn. 8th Augt. new Instructions have been given to Mr. Llyod.  
 " 26 Sept. and a publication has been issued in the Zemindary.

217. The Plan for the present can only be considered in the light of an Experiment. Its success Depends in a great measure upon Attention to the business, and a Conciliation of the Good Will of the Manufacturers, which being gradually obtained by Fair treatment a permanent establishment may ultimately be formed.

218. The result of the first Essay in ready Money Sales of Salt Petre at the Presidency for the last year, tho' not so amply successful as we had expected, was deemed sufficiently so to sanction a Continuance of the Plan upon a Moderate Scale for this year, and we have Authorized it.  
 Consn. 7th July  
 The Quantity of Salt Petre to be provided altogether [sic] for the season of 1788, and 1789, will appear in our Consultation noted in the Margin.

219. In Consequence of a requisition from the Commander of the Princess Amelia, One Bale (marked No. 20.) of his Cargo was opened by the Agent for loading and unloading your Ships, and being found considerably damaged, was returned to Calcutta. This Circumstance will of course have been represented to you by Captain Williams.

220. A quantity of Indigo, some Bales, and the St. Helena Stores were returned from the Rodney, in consequence of a Representation from the Pilot that She swam too deep and this Circumstance was stated by Captain Chatfield to be owing to an Additional quantity of water and Provisions that had been put on board for the use of the Soldiers, whose accommodation He had been Ordered to prepare for.

221. Some trifling mistakes having, on a reexamination, been discovered in the General Abstract Account of Priviledged Tonnage laden on your Ships of last year, occasioned by the Haste in which the Account was made up a corrected General Abstract, furnished by your Board of Trade, forms a Number in the present Dispatch.

222. Among the various Applications for the Indulgence of Shipping Goods in your unoccupied Tonnage of last year, your Board of Trade, admitted one from the House of Porcher, Redhead, and Gardiner and their property was intended to have been laden on board the Rodney. By mistake these Goods were shipped in the Princess Amelia, and the Error was discovered too late to be rectified.

223. The Proprietors having been refused, an Indemnification for losses which they may eventually incur (although every mode of covering the risk and securing themselves was pointed out in good Time) though proper to Protest, a measure, which in our Opinion, under the Circumstances stated, was unnecessary. [sic]

224. We have been induced after full Consideration of a long Correspondence between your Board of Trade, and Mr. Harris, who was Commercial Resident at Cossimbuzar, to remove him from that Station and to nominate Mr. C. R. Crommelin to his Place.

Consn. 21st May  
Consn. 23d May

225. The Principal points in the Correspondence are a Difference of Opinion with regard to the quality of Cossimbuzar Goods furnished by Mr. Harris for the Investment of 1787/8 and his carrying forward in the factory Books stock which he never received.

226. Mr. Harris, tho' not wholly exculpated from the latter Charge, was entitled to some Extenuation, as He only followed the Example of his Predecessors, and it is evident from his Letters that he failed more from want of knowledge and Experience in this Branch of your Investment than from any Deficiency in Zeal or Integrity; and, for these Reasons, when we deprived him of his Station at Cossimbuzar, we deemed him intitled to some other Provision He was therefore appointed Commercial Resident at Chittagong, separated entirely from Luckipore. He had formerly been employed at Chittagong and was reputed to be well acquainted with the Fabrics of that Aurung.

227. The mode prescribed last year for the Transportation of Goods to and from your Ships by Contract having procured the Performance of that Service at reasonable rates, and without any material Inconvenience, We authorized the same to be followed this Season with a Single Deviation that the Advertizement, inviting proposals should admit of Tenders for two or three years, provided the Board of Trade were of Opinion that the Business would be performed better and more Securely upon such an Extension of the period.

228. Mr. Sumner who embarked in the Britannia, left security in Calcutta for the adjustment of his Accounts our Decision upon some of the Claims against him was reported to you in our Letter of the 12th of February when we stated our Expectation that the largest Demands were forthcoming, either from him or the Estate of Mr. Stephenson.

229. Your Advocate General's Opinion, after a deliberate Perusal of every Paper and Proceeding which could elucidate the Subject, has fixed it beyond a Doubt upon the latter.

230. His Reasons have been communicated to the Board of Trade with our Directions to them to furnish such Documents and Vouchers not already sent to Europe as will enable you to Support your claim against Mr. Stephenson's Executors and to assist your immediate Reference, we here repeat the Dates of our Consultations in which the subject has at various times come before us.

Consn. 18th Apl.  
Consn. 25th Jany  
" 30th Do.

231. Pursuant to the Intention expressed in the 78th. Paragraph of our Letter Dated the 15th. December 1787, We are now to inform

you that Mr. Bebb the Commercial Resident at Dacca, prosecuted  
 Consn. 5th May and compleated his Investigation of the abuses  
 practised at that Station during the Chiefship of the  
 late Mr. Cottrell.

232. Two Questions are involved in his Report which the Board of Trade referred to our Consideration. First, the Principle to be adopted in prosecuting the Recovery of the Companys Commercial Balances incurred in Mr. Cottrells Time, and, in part at least, supposed to have arisen from his Exactions. Secondly, Whether any and what legal Redress can be obtained by the Company for the Workings they have suffered from him and his Associates.

233. On the first point we entirely concurred with your Board of Trade, that Remissions should be granted to the Weavers of their Debts, in the Sums extorted from  
 Consn. 22d Octr. them by Mr. Cottrell and his associates under the name of Piece Custom, as soon as Evidence should be obtained that the whole Price charged to the Company for Cloths so taxed ought to have been paid to them, and the same upon Taxes of other Kinds as soon as their Amount could be ascertained.

234. An Investigation of this Kind is evidently attended with Difficulties, and much must depend upon the Honour of the Conductor of it. It will be carried on by the present Resident at Dacca, in whom we place implicit Confidence, under Instructions to be given to him by the Board of Trade.

235. On the Second point we consulted the Advocate General, and, conformably to his Opinion, we have directed Copies of all the Proceedings, Declarations, Accounts and Statements to be prepared and transmitted to you as containing ample Grounds for seeing the Representations of Mr. Cottrell, and for calling Mr. Pottenger to account.

236. In the Consultations noted in the Margin; you will observe  
 Consn. 12th May the various and diffuse discussions which have passed  
 13, 16, 18, & 20 June between your Board of Trade, and Mr. Keighly, his  
 7, 9, & 16 July Correspondence with us, and our final Resolutions upon the subject of the Balances due by him to the Company on Account of his Contracts for Silk and Silk Piece Goods & ca.

237. The Result of this troublesome Business without waiting the Issue of a Proceeding at Law and without a Reference to Arbitration, produced a positive Engagement on the part of Mr. Keighly and his Securities to discharge the amount due to the Company by Monthly Instalments, the whole to be paid in three Months, or on or before the 1st October. The Sum of Current Rupees 72693-14-8 was paid in by Mr. Keighly on or before the 8th of September. The Difficulties which he met with in recovering Debts outstanding in this Country, and his Inability to procure Money by Bills upon Europe from the intended Packet not Sailing in August, are assigned as Reasons for the Remainder being unpaid at the Stipulated Period,

and as the Grounds for his requesting a little further Time, which we have tacitly tho' not avowedly, acquiesced in his having.

238. With respect to other Balances due to the Hon'ble Company in the Commercial Department previous to and for the year 1787/8 we beg leave to refer you to a Report submitted to us by your Board of Trade upon the different component parts of such Balances From Reasons which they have assigned, and which we deem sufficient, have acquiesced in waving [sic] out Claim to the Penalties that under other Circumstances would have been taken from the Contractors of last year, and we have allowed those Consn. 20th May which occurred in former years to lie over, as We were not aware that any measures could have been pursued with effect to recover them immediately.

239. Such were our Sentiments on the 20th May but, in our Proceedings of the 1st of September, you will observe a proposition from the Security of Mr. H. Harris to liquidate [sic] Consn. 1st Sept. that Gentlemans Balance by Instalments, The Motives which led to that Proposal; and the Considerations which induced us to authorize the Board of Trade to accede to it are stated in our Consultations.

240. In the 89th Paragraph of our Letter P. Busbridge We intimated to you that we had it in Contemplation to concenter in the old Fort all the Offices under your Commercial Department at the Presidency, for which purpose the Chief Engineer was ordered to have a Survey made of the Premisses, and to Consult the Board of Trade as to the additional Buildings which would be required.

241. This Survey with an Estimate of the Expenxe to be incurred, and various Calculations, the Result of all which proved the Consn. 17th Apl. Eligibility of the Plan in points of Oeconomy Consn. 18th Apl. venience and Dispatch, were submitted to us on the 7th of April, and on the 18th we pased our final Resolution to carry it into Execution.

242. Some of the Buildings recommended Vizt. Quays, Piers & ca. are for the present postponed; but we determined that the Houses, Godowns & ca. which are wanted for immediate Consn. 4th July Accommodation, should be constructed by Contract " 26th Sept. under the Minute Inspection of an Engineer who is allowed a Salary of 500 Rupees P Month for his Trouble until the Period limited for the Completion of the Works, The Terms of the Several Contracts will appear in our Proceedings noted in the Margin.

243. By this Arrangement the Mint Has been removed to a Place formerly called the Buxey Khannah, the late Alterations in the Offices at the Presidency, and the Sale of useless Articles of Old Furniture, having rendered it unnecessary to appropriate the whole of that Property to the Purposes for which it was originally intended.

244. The Standard Weights which you consigned to us by the Ranger are deposited in the Mint; and We have, in Compliance with an Application from your Board of Trade, in order to bring them

into General Use, authorized 24 Setts to be strick  
 Consn. 24th Apl. [sic] off with additional Weights of two Maunds  
 each upon the same proportionate Scale.

245. An attempt has been made, which promises to terminate  
 successfully, to introduce the Manufacture of Bengal Silk into the  
 Province of Bahar. Mr. Henderson, the Surgeon at  
 Consn. 30th May Gyah, commenced this Undertaking, and we have  
 been induced to make him an Allowance of 200  
 Sicca Rupees P. Month as Superintendant of a  
 New Establishment, requiring him to report its Progress from Time  
 to Time. All the Charges attending his Plan are included in this  
 Amount.

246. Our Proceedings on the 22d. of October will exhibit the Prog-  
 ress which has been made in our Arrangements for the Investments  
 of 1789. The Agency System is recommended by the  
 Consn 22d Octr. Board of Trade, and continued, from a Conviction  
 that, fairly and intelligently conducted, it will be  
 found the best, altho' the enclemencies [sic] of the  
 two last Seasons have made it impossible that its good Effects should  
 be shown so soon and amply as we expected. The Produce of the  
 Residencies of Maulda and of the Aurungs of Gollagore & ca. which  
 have hitherto have [sic] been furnished by Contract, are now to be  
 supplied in the Mode of Agency. The Investment is to Commence  
 on the 1st of January 1789 and the Amount allowed for it is Current  
 Rupees 90,00,000.

247. This Sums [sic] includes the Agency Commission, and all  
 Contingencies and, as it exceeds the Calculation formed of the  
 Order of Investment received P. William Pitt for the year 1789. We  
 have instructed the Board of Trade to propose such Modification in  
 the Allotment of the whole Provision as they may deem expedient,  
 and the Periods and Proportions in which the Advances will be  
 required. When this has been received, it will become a subject of  
 Consideration that Proportions of the Allotment shall be provided for  
 in Cash and Certificates.

248. Two Propositions were lately submitted to the Board of Trade  
 by Mr. Prager on the subject of Indigo and Drugs.  
 Consn. 22nd Octr. In the first he recommends, as an Encouragement to  
 the Manufacturers to proceed in the Cultivation of  
 that Article, that the Company should make public  
 their Intentions to continue to contract with such Merchants as will  
 accept of the Valuation put upon the Indigo by their Inspector. In  
 the second, that Drugs may be exported by Individuals in the  
 Company's Tonnage, to prevent some Drugs that were offered for  
 Sale which would produce a Profit in England from falling into the  
 Hands of Foreigners.

249. As the Publication recited in the former part of this Letter,  
 tho' it allows Individuals to export Indigo do not preclude any.  
 [sic] Provision of that Article for the Company, it was unnecessary to  
 come to any Resolution upon this part of Mr. Prager's Proposals with

respect to the Article of Drugs, we authorised the Board of Trade to obtain such Supply as they might think expedient for the present years Investment not exceeding one Lac of Rupees.

250. We have now received from the Board of Trade, and transmit to obtain such Supply as they might think expedient for the present with the Detail of Affairs under their Management since the last Dispatch.

251. Our Resolutions upon Mr. Barlow's Report respecting the Trade and Customs of Benares have been carried into execution by the Resident. The Regulations for the future Collection of the Customs upon a reduced Scale, and for the Abolition of Rahdarry Duties Commenced on the 1st. April, from which period the Commercial Courts of Justice were established.

Benares  
Consn. 26th Decemr.  
1787 G.L. 12th June  
1788

252. For the particular Detail of these Arrangements effected by your Resident, and confirmed with little Alteration by us, We beg Leave to refer you to our Proceedings, under this Declaration that our Expectations are sanguine of their contributing greatly to the Ease and Satisfaction of the Merchants, and consequently to the encreasing opulence and Prosperity of the District.

Consn. 26th March  
" 28th April  
" 11th June  
" 14th July

#### Canton

253. Mr. George Smiths payments into your Treasury at Canton, upon the Terms notified in the 68th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 6th. March, were limited to 10 Lacs of Current Rupees. That amount falling short of Mr. Smith's Views and Intentions He further submitted to us the reasonableness of allowing him the same rate of Commission on whatever Sums might be paid to the Supra Cargoes in his Name for Bills upon your Hon'ble Court at the Exchange of next Season. To this proposition We declined to accede, and referred him to Settle his Terms with the Supra Cargoes, in the Event of his being able to make payments into the Canton Treasury to a larger amount than He was Limited to by his Agreement with us.

Consn. 24th March

254. Mr. Hope who proceeded to Batavia in February last with the Bills drawn by the Government of Chinsurah on their Superiors at Batavia arrived at that Place on the 26th May After a Detention of Six Weeks, He obtained Payment of the Whole Amount, or Sps. Dollr. 1,55,172½, and proceeded immediately to Prince of Wales Island where He delivered it to Captain Light. The Sum of 20,172½ Dollars. was detained there for the Expences of the Island, and the remainder was consigned by your Ships to China.

Consn. 15th Oct.

255. In addition to the Remittances to your Supra Cargoes already advised we have transmitted them Bills drawn by Mr. J. L. Auriol for Sps. Dollars 9744, the Amount purchase of Salt Petre; and We have assented to a proposal from Messrs. Graham, and Mowbray to

discharge half in Cash and half in Certificates, and at the Exchange of 37½ Spanish Dollars for 100 Current Rupees, such Bills as they may obtain from your Supra Cargoes for Sums which they expect to possess in China this Season, and which will be paid into your Treasury at Canton.

#### Accounts and Bills of Exchange

256. Your Accountant General as speedily as the necessary attention to his other avocations would permit, examined the Statements, and Explanations which the Trustees for Mr. Brueres Affairs furnished, according to the application which we made to them, as noticed in the 17th. Paragraph of our Letter of the 21th. February last.

257. His Report, after stating several further Explanations and accounts to be demanded from the Trustees, that he might be enabled to trace the different Conversions made of the property mortgaged to the Company and to ascertain whether the ultimate Produce had been accurately and completely paid into the Bengal or Canton Treasuries, and some references to the Advocate General which are made, proceeds to point out the actual Balance due from Mr. Bruere upon the different Engagements as follows.

			Estimated Assets	Unexpected Balance
On that for	5,00,000.	90,777—14—0	29,268,4-8.	61,509.9.4
On Captn. Waugh For.....	1,20,000.	1,08,536—9—4	————	1,08,536,9.4
On that for 1786/7 for.	5,60,000.	2,54,199—15—10	1,69,711.6.11.	75,488.9
		4,53,514.7.2	1,98,979.11.6	2,45,534.11.8

258. The securities and assests these Deficiencies [sic] amounting to no more than 3,69,025-14-2. We have ordered the remainder with some other Demands, which appear upon your Books against Mr. Bruere, maing altogether [sic] 1,25,831-8-8 to be written off to the Account of Dead Stock, according to the Directions contained in the 29th 30th 31st and 32nd Paragraph of your Letter of the 12th April 1786, and when We express our regret at the Loss which you are likely to sustain in this Transaction, we think it but reasonable to observe that none would have accrued [sic] from the Engagement of 1786/7 if Mr. Bruere had Complied with the proposition which He voluntarily made to us of depositing to the amount of one Lac of Rupees in Company's Bonds as a Security in your Treasury here.

259. Our Accountant Generals Letter of the 6th March was forwarded to you in the Packet of the Rodney Our Resolutions upon it were passed on the 24th of the same month, when  
Consn. 10th March we issued the necessary Directions that the Books of our several Departments should be delivered at

the Accountant Generals Office for the year's 1786/ and 87]8 in due time to enable him to adjust them with the General Books of the same year before the latter were balanced and closed, and, in the event of any Deviation from these Orders, we required Reasons to be assigned, if they were of Opinion that the Books of the latter year could not be prepared by the Prescribed time;

260. In the Letter above mentioned you will observe that your Accountant General expressed his Apprehension that the Rule prescribed in the 13th Paragraph of your Revenue Letter of the 31st July could hardly be established, even in the next season of dispatch subsequent Experience of the Facility, with which the intended Duties of his Office might be conducted, induced him to retract that Opinion under a Provision that the subsidiary Books ending the 30th of April 1788 were furnished to his Office by the 31st of July following. Our Orders to that Effect were immediately issued to the several Departments, and as all have admitted the Practicability with very little Variation in point of Time, we hope and believe that your Accountant Generals Exertions in this respect will be successful. His Letter and our Resolutions make a Number in the Packet, and we beg leave to refer them to your Perusal.

261. Draughts of the Bills of Exchange to be drawn upon you, in Consequence of our Resolutions of the 31st March, and in Conformity to the 49th and 50th Paragraphs of your Separate Letter, respecting the Transfer of your Indian Debt to England are transmitted Numbers in the Packet.

262. We also forward to you in this Packet a Copy of a Letter from Mr. Fergusson, and your Accountant Generals Report upon his Applications—As these Papers contain the Circumstances, grounds, and Conditions upon which we were induced to grant to Mr. Fergusson, the legal Representative of Messrs Inglis and Braisier, Attornies of Claud Russel, and Hugh Inglis, a Bond for Current Rupees 9,302-6-4 bearing Interest at the rate of 8 P. Cent P. Annum from the 4th September 1780, in liquidation of a Bond in the above-mentioned Names for Current Rupees 6540, which was represented to have been lost Interest at the rate of 8 P. Cent being allowed upon it from the 18th November 1770 to the 1st May 1774, and at the Rate of 5 P. Cent from the latter date to the 15th August 1776 the latest Period to which Interest upon any undischarged Bonds appears to have been admitted.

263. In Pursuance of your Orders contained in the Paragraphs of your General Letter P Ranger, we have discharged the Freemasons Certificates, the Provincial Grand Master & ca. having executed the Indemnification required which is deposited in your Treasury.

264. The intended Publication prohibiting the Officers of Government from receiving the notes of any Bank on the Public Account, and notifying that Certificates would in future be discharged at the General Treasury, was suspended in Consequence of a Strong Representation from the Chairman of the General Bank, in which He expressed his Apprehensions that such a measure, when Government were indebted in a large Amount to the Society might be highly prejudicial to their Concerns; but as your Debt to the General Bank was completely discharged by the middle of September, our Resolutions took effect from the 1st of October.

265. Your Orders of the 31st of July respecting the mode of paying the Salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court, were communicated to them in due Course, and, in Compliance with their wishes we authorized their Salaries to be paid in Cash from the 1st of April.

266. The following is a Statement of the latest subscriptions [sic] We have received on account of the Transfer of your Indian Debts to England.

Bengal to the 31st	Curt. Rups.	22,33,027-9-11	21,39,98-9-7	
October 88.	pags.	47,063-3-23	18,040-17-1	
	Bys Rups	185046-3-67	20,046-15-0	2,52,086-1-8
Madras to the				
30th September	pags		90,501-11-7	or 34,692-3-4
Bombay to the				
17th July	Bys.		14,96,812-2-69	or 1,62,154-14-2
			£ St.	4,48,932-19-2

267. As we have not received any Register, or Statement or Subscriptions made at Bencoolen, which might enable us to affix the Number definitively of the Orders of Payment, according to the 6th Article of our Advertizement of the 31st of March to all the Bills to be granted on your Hon'ble Court on this Account, We have, with a view to the Satisfaction of the known Subscribe[r]s, who are anxious to send their Bills home by an early Ship, Ordered such Bills to be drawn, and the subscriptions of each Presidency to be Registered separately, leaving it to the Officers of your Hon'ble Court to fill up hereafter in England the Number for the Order of Payments. The Registers of Subscriptions made to each Presidency will be published in the Calcutta Gazette, so that Individuals may have the Satisfaction of Perceiving that Justice has been done to them in this respect.

268. We have been solicited by many of the present Proprietors of Bengal Bonds, granted in Liquidation [sic] of the Certificates for Madras and Bombay Military Arrears, to Alter our Determination as to the Rate of Exchange, at which such Bonds should be admitted in the Transfers of the India Debts, but we have not yet passed any Resolution upon it.

269. Our Proceedings in the Secret and Separate Department will inform you of the Establishment of an Office, called the Office of the Civil Auditor and the Regulations which were adopted upon that Occasion subsidiary Rules were afterwards deemed necessary for this Office, as well as some trifling Alterations in the mode of checking the Post Master General's Accounts, For the particulars we beg leave Consn. 6th. June  
 Consn. Prog. 22. Aug. to refer you to our Consultations. The Auditors Reports upon all Contingent and Extra Disbursements with our final Resolutions upon each Article are kept distinct from our General Proceedings, both for the Convenience of Speedy Reference here, and that they may be more ready for the immediate inspection of your Hon'ble Court.

270. The Establishment of this Office having transferred the business of adjusting the Prices to be paid to the Superintendents of the Press for the several Printed Papers occasionally required by the different Heads of Offices. The Auditor submitted Consn. 18th July to us an Additional Statement, and we confirmed it as a Supplement to the Table of Rates established last year, which will in future prevent much Loss of time by repeated and difficult Discussions in the Adjustment of Charges, hitherto not sufficiently defined.

271. Our Proceedings noted in the Margin contain two Reports, with subsidiary Papers, submitted ot us by the Committee appointed on the 25th of October 1786 to investigate and recover outstanding Balances not Military. To these Reports Consn. 31st March  
 Do 26th Septr. and our Orders upon them we beg leave to refer you for Information as to the mode in which their Proceedings were conducted, the points to which our Resolution apply and the Foundations for the different Heads Consn. 6th. October. composing the Balance.

272. Some of the Articles stated in these Reports only required Examination to be adjusted; others, for the Reasons assigned, are written of the Desperate Debts and Profit and Loss; others again, where there is a probability of recovering either the whole or part of the Amount, or where further Investigation may lead to fuller and more compleat Elucidation, remain upon the Books until such Investigation has taken Place.

273. A Claim upon Mr. Henry Goodwin, formerly of this Establishment for 4,374-13-6. We point out to your particular Notice, in Order that it may be demanded from him in England. It is detailed in the Committees first Reports, recorded in our Proceedings of the 31st March.

#### Marine

274. Our Proceedings noted in the Margin will fully explain to you the Grounds upon which we have been induced to incur an Expence of 10,000 Rupees in the Purchase of Premises contiguous to your Marine Yard, and to authorize the Expenditure of 4,000 more to Complete some Consn. 26th. March

7th April Buildings which had been commenced upon them.  
 2nd May This addition to your Marine Yard will, we under-  
 5th Novr. stand, independent of other Material Considerations,  
 preclude all further Contingent Charges for Ware house Rent &  
 ca. & ca. on Account of the Marine Department.

275. We forward to you a Number in the Packet Copy of a Letter from the Marine Pay Master in Reply to the 6th 32d. and 34th Paragraphs of your General Letter dated the 31st July 1787 which were sent to him for his Information and Guidance. These Papers Sufficiently evince that your Orders with respect to economy in Marine Charges have been attended to in every particular Instance. The alterations suggested in the Pilot Service were considered on the Expiration of the present Marine Contract, and will be reported from the Separate Department.

276. On the Importation of the fifth Pilot Vessel from Bombay We directed that she should be received into the Establishment of Sloops for this River, and we ordered, as usual, that the least Serviceable of the Old Vessels should be disposed of to make Room for her. The Accounts have not yet been transmitted to us, but we are very apprehensive that the Charges for these Vessels, taken collectively or Separately, will turn out infinitely more extravagant than we could have supposed possible and we are concerned to observe from your Marine Officer's Reports that the Vessells are fitted out very indifferently.

Consn. 28th April

Consn. 12th May

277. With a View to the ultimate saving of Expençe, and in Order to have these Vessells in readiness for every immediate Service or Emergency, We have directed all of them to be Coppered as fast as they can be spared from the necessary Duties of the River.

Consn. 6th June

278. The annual Survey of this River, and necessary repairs & ca. to the Buoys were commenced by your Master Attendant on the 4th of May. His Report of the Soundings and alterations, which have taken place since the last year, forms a Number in the present Dispatch.

Consn. 2nd May  
Do. 27th Augt.

279. We also forward to you by this Convevance, Copy of a Memorial from Mr. Andrew Wood, late Chief Officer of your Ship Admiral Hughs, setting-forth the Circumstances which occasioned the Return of that Ship to Bombay, Contrary to his Opinion, the Services which he was afterwards employed on by the Bombay Government, and the mode in which they were executed under many Difficulties and with considerable Risque to his own personal Safety. We have, at Mr. Woods request, sent a Copy of his Memorial to the Government of Bombay, with whom it rests to afford him that Redress and Reward for his Services to which He is entitled, and we beg leave to recommend his Case to your favourable Consideration.

Consn. 13th Augt.

280. On a Subsequent application from Mr. Wood, when on the point of Departure for Bombay, we were induced to make him an

Consn. 27th advance of Sicca Rupees 7,000, for which Amount He  
 Augt. will of course be responsible to your Government of  
 Bombay when his Accounts are finally adjusted.

### Company's Servants

281. You will receive with this Packet Copy of a Minute delivered  
 in Council by the Governor General containing his Lordships Sentiments upon a Circumstance which had been observed  
 Consn. 3d that Government had unintentionally deviated from  
 Octr. a strict adherence to the Terms of the Act of Parliament respecting the appointments to be held by  
 Junior Civil Servants. The Instances to which his Lordships [sic] alludes will appear in the Minute, as well as the Measures adopted to withhold from the Persons mentioned therein any larger Salary or Emoluments than the Legislature has prescribed for their Standing in the Service, and the Rule which is established to prevent any future Deviation from the Spirit or Letter of the Act.

282. Mr. H. C. Plowden represented to us his Inhability [sic] to  
 Consn. 17th avail himself of the Permission granted to him to  
 March return to Europe last Season and has with our  
 Consent reassumed his Rank on this Establishment.

283. (Par : 77). A Sequestration against the Effects of Mr.  
 William Barton was reported by your Attorney at  
 Vide Letter. Pr. Law to have been issued, and carried into Execution  
 Rodney dated 6th by the Sheriff on the 20th of March. A List of the  
 March. Consn. Effects will appear in our Proceeding Noted in the  
 24th March Margin.

284. The Exceptions taken on the part of the Company to Mr.  
 Barton's answer came on for Argument before the  
 Consn. 24th Supreme Court on the 13th March, and, as no  
 March Advocate appeared on his Behalf, they were allowed  
 with Costs, A Copy of the Exceptions attends you in  
 the Packet.

285. In our Consultation of the 21st April, a Letter is Recorded  
 from Mr. Barton, in which his Reasons are assigned  
 Consn. 21st for having so precipitately withdrawn himself from  
 April the Jurisdiction of the British Government and taken  
 Asylum in the Danish Settlement of Fredereeknagor.  
 This not requiring a particular Answer none was given to it.

286. On the 26th of the next Month, Mr. Barton addressed another  
 Letter to us, containing a proposition to pay the Company One Lac  
 of Rupees out of his Moderate Fortune on Conditions which We repeat  
 at full Length and in his own Words.

"That your Lordship give the Offer the Sanction of your Approbation, That you recommend its acceptance to the Hon'ble Company, that in the Event of their Acceptance and Payment of the said Sum

by me, the Honourable Company or those vested with authority render them, give me a full Discharge and acquittal of all Claims and Demand Whatever, which they meant to have established against me by filling certain Bills of Discovery in the Court of Chancery, that said Bills be finally withdrawn and done away as through [sic] they never existed, that an Act of Indemnity and oblation [oblivion] be passed in my favor by the Company for all the Delinquencies laid to my Charge in the said Bills, that the Hon'ble Company be requested to communicate their Will and Pleasure, their Acceptance or Rejection of said Proposition, in as short a period of Time as may be not to keep me unnecessarily in a State of Cruel, and Tormenting Suspence, That your Lordship in the interim, until the Will and Pleasure of the Company be made known to you, or your Successor in Office, be pleased to give the requisite Instructions for Suspending the prosecution now carrying on against me in the Court of Chancery, That I have your Lordship's free permission, sanction, and Protection for comings [sic] and residing within the Jurisdiction of the British Government in the Town of Calcutta, or elsewhere within the Provinces, free from the Danger of Actions, Arrests Seizures & ca &ca And that finally I have your Lordships free Consent and Permissi<sup>o</sup>n, or that of your Successor in Office, and a reasonable Time allowed me for that purpose, for withdrawing Myself from the Jurisdiction of the British Government and the Supreme Court of Judicature in the Event of the Proposition not meeting the Approbation of the Hon'ble Company."

287. As we did not coceive that We had it in our Power to comply with the above recited Conditions, or to acquiesce in the Terms which Mr. Barton proposed for extricating himself from his unpleasant Situation Our Sentiments to that Effect were communicated to him by our Secretary and they drew from him another Letter, in which after repeating the Clauses of the Act of Parliament, which he imagined influenced Us in replying to his Application in the Manner We did, he endeavoured to empress [sic] us with an Opinion that his being removed from within the Jurisdiction of the British Government puts him out of the Description of the Clauses adverted to, and Consequently that the Propositions for an Accommodation or Compromise were different in their Tendency and admissibility from what they would otherwise be were his Person, and Property within the British Jurisdiction. To this we finally replied that We did not think it consistent with our Duty to comply with his Propositions.

288. We transmit to you in this Packet Copy of the Plea and Answer put in by Mr. Keighly to the Bill filed, at the Instance of the Honourable Company, against him, Mr. Barton, and Mr. Rider. This Plea was argued in the Supreme Court on the 31st of March, and overruled; Consequently a further answer was required. His Attorney when informed of this Requisition, Declared that Mr. Keighly was determined to appeal against the Order of the Court, and, being of Opinion that he was not bound to answer till the Event of that appeal should be known, that he would not take any Measure for the purpose.

Consn. 16th  
April:

289. Your Advocate General, on the contrary entertained no doubts that Mr. Keighly might be compelled to answer immediately, and advised an Attachment to be issued against him in the Event of his Refusal. Of this His Attorney was advised; but Mr. Keighly's excessive ill State of Health prevented the Attorney from speaking to him on the subject. Under these circumstances we directed the writ to be taken out, but the Operation of it to be suspended for further Orders.

290. Mr. Keighly, on his Recovery from this Service [serious] Illness, filed Petition of Appeal against the Decision of the 31st March which, after much Argument and Deliberation, was reluctantly allowed by the Court, who at the same time, upon your Advocate Generals; application, made an order, "That the Company should be at Liberty to reply to Mr. Keighly's Answer to the Bill of Complaint without prejudice to the Right of the Complainants to insist upon a full and sufficient Answer from Mr. Keighly to that part of the Bill to which his Plea applied in Case the Judgement or order of the Court disallowing the said Plea should be affirmed or the appeal should be dismissed by his most gracious Majesty in his most Hon'ble Privy Council." By that Order there will be no loss of time in taking the Evidence in the Cause, which will be done notwithstanding the Pendency of the Appeal.

291. Mr. Keighly has lately made an Application to us for Permission to return to England in one of the Ships to be dispatched this Season which we have referred to the Advocate General for Opinion.

292. Mr. Blaquieres Answer to the Bill filed against him and others having been submitted to the Advocate General, He made Exceptions to some Passages in it. These were admitted by the Supreme Court, and Mr. Blaquieres further Answer was required, Previous to any Official Notification being made to us, that his further answer was given (altho' your Advocate General, had been called upon for his opinion upon it Mr. Blaquier addressed a Letter to us, in which he set forth his Reasons for supposing and believing that the Circumstances of his Particular case were not sufficiently known to your Honourable Court, when you ordered him to be included in the Prosecutions. That the amount which he received from Mr. Barton for his Services, inspecting the Purchases of ready made Goods in 1784, was considered as a reward for his extraordinary labour, such as had been conceded to him upon a former occasion, when He examined the Cloths which fell into the Company's Possession from the Dutch, That he was willing to refund that Amount, and, in Consideration of his distressing Situation only requested to be exempted from Interest and the Costs of Suit. This is the Substance of his Letter We postponed coming to any Decision upon it; until your Advocate Generals Answer to the Application which had been made to him should come in. It was received on the 22nd. of October.

293. The Circumstances stated in the Advocate General's Report which comprizes both the Answers given by Mr. Blacquier We deemed of such a Nature, as to oblige us to order the Company's Law Officers to proceed in the Suit against him and We suspended him from his Office of Superintendant of the Cloth Investment until the Termination of that Suit.

The Answer of Colly Persaud Dutt, who was also included in the same Bill, having been deemed full the Bill as to Consn. 22d. Octr. him was dismissed, in Order that he might be made use of as a Witness in Case it should be necessary to file Interrogatories or to go into Evidence before a Master.

294. Copies of the above mentioned Answers and of others, on which your Advocate General has not yet reported Consn. 22nd. Octr. with the Exceptions made to Mr. Blaquier[s] Answer, that Gentleman's Letter to us, and the Advocate Generals Summary of his Case attend you in the Packet.

295. Pursuant to the Promises made in the 42 Paragraph of our Separate General Letter of the 6th March on the Consn. 5th Novr. Subject of the Police of this Town &c. We transmit to you a Number in the Packet Copy of a Letter from our Advocate General with the Sketch of a Bill which He has prepared as this does not intend entirely to the subjects contained in his Instructions, the Reasons are assigned for the Omission in his Letter which with the Bill itself We beg Leave to refer to your particular Notice.

296. Mr. Rider, as far as the Documents He was possessed of would enable him, complied with the spirit of the Demand proposed to be made of him, in the 81st Paragraph of our General Letter of the 6th of March. He verified upon Oath that he neither now is nor ever was possessed of any Entries, or Notes of any kind, whereby he could state either the particular Dividends he received of any Per Centage given up for the use of the Board of Trade by the Contractors on the amount of their Engagements, or the total Amount of such Dividends and at the same time swore to the best of his knowledge, Remebrance, or Belief, to the whole Consn. 6th Augt. that he had received, while an Acting Member of the Board of Trade, of any Per Centage given up by the Contractors for the use of that Board on the amount of their contracts, and he intered into a Bond to repay the same Viz. 40,000 Current Rupees with Costs of Suit, One Moiety on the 15th January and the other on the 15th July 1790.

297. Upon these Conditions, all Prosecutions against him have ceased, and we have, in Consideration of the Circumstances of this case, which his Letters now transmitted fully set forth, Agreed to recommend particularly to your Hon'ble Court that the request he has made to us for Readmission with his Rank to your Service, as soon as the form of Proceedings required by Law will allow should be complied with unless your Inquiry from Messrs. Wiss &c. should prove him culpable as to his Silk Contract, regarding which we addressed you by the Rodney.

298. We are disposed to think favourably of Mr. Rider, and cannot help wishing that his Conduct may Appear to you, as it does to us, to merit the favor his [sic] has asked.

#### Persons not in the Service

299. Mr. Lee Lewis, the Comedian having entered himself on board the Kent in the Downs under the appearance and in the Capacity of a Seaman Captain Hardinge, on his arrival in Bengal reported the Circumstance to us. We deemed it necessary in Compliance with your Orders in respect to unlicensed Persons, to exact an Engagement from Mr. Lee Lewis that he would return to Europe with Captain Hardinge and from the latter that he would take him back in his Ship. Our Requisitions were immediately assented to on the Part of both.

#### Appointments

300. Our Regulations precluding Servants from holding offices in different Departments having removed Mr. Dashwood from the Appointment of Register of Natives Subject to the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, we availed ourselves of the Opportunity to make some compensation to Mr. Jackson, who had held a similar Office under the Court, and by your directions lost the allowance which had been annexed to it. We therefore committed to him the Charge which Mr. Dashwood had vacated; and in order to fulfill the Objects of the Act of Parliament, which, owing perhaps to the want of some compulsory Regulations, had not been sufficiently attended to by Individuals, we directed Mr. Jackson to prepare, and submit to our Consideration, such Rules as He would propose for the Purpose of giving due Efficacy to the Intentions of the Legislature.

301. These will appear in our Proceedings noted in the Margin, and We have caused the necessary Publications to be made both in the English and the Country Languages.

Consn. 7th Sept.

302. In the Spirit of your Orders of the 31st July 1787 we allowed Mr. Jackson for this Duty the moderate Salary of Sicca Rupees 300 P. Month; besides the prescribed fees, an Account of which is to be laid before Us Quarterly that when the amount received shall be such as can be deemed a Compensation for the trouble attending the Office, the Monthly Allowance may be further Considered.

303. The other appointments made in the Public Department since our last dispatch are mentioned in a List which will be forwarded a number in the Packet.

#### Miscellanea

304. Our Proceedings in the Secret and Separate Department, which contain our Resolutions upon the Allowances and Establishments in your Service at this Presidency, will be completed and transmitted with a Narrative by the Triton.

305. We have with great Satisfaction acquiesced in a proposition submitted to us by Sir William Jones, to employ some of the most

learned of the Native Lawyers, under his Superintendence, in the Compilation of a Complete Digest of Hindoo and Mahomedan Law of which from principles of public spirit and General Benevolence, He has undertaken to make an accurate and Verbal Translation into English.

306. Sir William's Letter to us upon the subject is transmitted to you. It fully explains the grand object proposed by this Work, which we are of Opinion is interesting to Humanity, and well reflect Credit on the administration which had given it support. The Consn. 14th April Compilers are selected by himself. He calculates 22d. Aug. that it will be finished in the space of three years; Consn. 11th Aug. during which Time an inconsiderable Monthly Expence will be incurred in Salaries, besides some trifling charges, in proceeding [procuring] such Shanscrit Manuscripts as may be required from Benares.

307. The Number of Causes having greatly accumulated before the Court of Requests, The Commissioners submitted to our Consideration a Mode of bringing up the Arrears, by employing Six Sworn Arbitrators with the Consent of the Parties suing and sued.— Their Salaries, while employed, were to be paid by the Company at the rate of 30 Rups. P. Month to each, and your Consn. 24th March Advocate General, having reported to us that, under the Provision stated, he saw no legal objection to the Measure proposed, we authorized it to be adopted.

308. Experience has proved these temporary appointments to have been peculiarly beneficial to the lowest Orders of people in Calcutta; Near 10,000 petty Causes were settled in the Course of Six Months, at which time, as the business was brought into proper Train, and the Number of Causes which generally come before the Court did not exceed the ability of the Commissioners to decide upon them at their regular Meetings the Employment of Arbitrators was discontinued. Consn. 29th Sept.

309. Four several addresses from the Principal Native Inhabitants of Benares to your Hon'ble Court, declaring their Sentiments of Mr. Hastings, were submitted to us by Mr. Geo. Thompson, late Secretary to Mr. Hastings, at the request of Ally Ibrahim Cawn, the Chief Judicial Magistrate of that City, with the Correspondence which had passed with him on the subject of them. Consn. 31st March

310. It appeared, from the Tenor of this Correspondence, that a Deputation of the Inhabitants of Benares had expressed their wishes, thro Ally Ibrahim Cawn, to wait upon your Resident Mr. Duncan, with these Addresses, as the regular Official Channel of Communication, but that Mr. Duncan had declared it was unnecessary for the Inhabitants to attend him with the addresses, as they did not concern the Company's Affairs, Under these Circumstances they were forwarded to Mr. Thompson, as the Attorney and friend of Mr. Hastings, with a request that he would lay them before the Governor General in Council, and take the necessary steps for their being translated and transmitted to Europe.

311. In Compliance with Ally Ibrahim Cawn's Solicitation Mr. Thompson submitted these Papers to us as before recited, requested they might be translated and forwarded to you in due time; and, Under a Supposition that the Company would not be averse to receive from its native subjects and Allies the Public declaration of their Sentiments upon a question of so much Importance to their happiness and to the Credit of the English Nation as the Conduct of Mr. Hastings during his long Government, Mr. Thompson further requested that he might be permitted to receive the suffrages which the Native Inhabitants of the Company's Possessions were desirous of conveying to the Court of Directors, as their Sense of Mr. Hastings Merits, and that the Judges, Collectors, and Residents might be informed that He had obtained such permissions or that they were themselves at Liberty to receive and transmit to us any Testimonies relative to Mr. Hastings that might be tendered to them by or on the part of the Native Inhabitants.

312. With these Requests from Mr. Thompson we complied having qualified our Orders to the Judges Collectors and Residents in the following Terms, that "the Liberty accorded was merely to receive and transmit Testimoniels when Offered, but that they were not to deduce any Inference from it that they were authorized to exercise any further Interference.

313. The Addresses above mentioned with Translations, and various other Addresses &ca. from the Nabob Vizier and his Ministers, from the Nabobs of Furruckabad, and these Provinces, also from the Principal Zemindars of Dinagepore, Boglepore &ca. &ca. & ca., according to a List which Accompanies them, attend you in the Present Dispatch.

#### Revenue Department

314. We have the honor to transmit by the William Pitt the Broken Set of our Proceedings from the beginning of March to the end of September 1788, with Index and Appendix, and the other Paper enumerated in the List of Packet.

#### Land Revenues

#### Bengal

315. The acknowledged advantages which must result from concluding a settlement for a long term of years, together with your injunctions for carrying this Measure into execution, impressed it at the commencement of the Current Year 1195 or 1788/9 but it was with real reluctance we found ourselves under the necessity of postponing this arrangement till the ensuing year for the reasons which we have now the honor to submit to you.

316. As long ago as the 5th February 1787 the Board of Revenue were directed to prepare sundry material as a foundation for this important measure, and the Collectors were severally called upon for information with a view to its accomplishment.

317. The Voluminous nature of these materials had unavoidably retarded their completion, and the Persian statements of the Revenue since the acquisition of the Dewanny had but lately been transmitted from the Office of Roy Royan.

318. These Accounts appeared to us very essential for the purpose of forming a Settlement on permanent principles, and together with every illustration which could be furnished by us as required by your in[s]tructions equally necessary for your information.

319. Supposing however they had been prepared and ready for our inspection, the period between the time when this subject was under our deliberation, and the commencement of the current Bengal Year was too short to admit of considering them with the attention which they required, and the Storms and Inundations which had so universally prevailed the last Season, offered a serious obstacle to forming a Settlement on a permanent plan; for though we had received general information of great losses having been sustained we were not particularly apprized of the extent of them and of their Effects upon the Sources of the Revenue.

320. We accordingly directed that the Settlement of Bengal for 1195 or 1788/9 should be formed for that year only, upon the principles and Instructions recorded upon our Proceedings of the 5th February 1787, adding thereto some subsidiary orders for the particulars of which we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings of the 12th March and 2d. April. The Settlement for the three last years has varied very little in its general Amount, and with a few exceptions has been annually concluded with the same Persons.

#### Behar

321. The reasons which induced us to defer the ten years Settlement in Bengal were equally applicable to Behar, We accordingly directed that the Settlement of this Province for 1196 Fussily or 1788/9 should be concluded for that year only. We deemed it Expedient however to admit of some deviation in the principles hitherto adopted in forming the Settlement of this Province, which we now beg leave to point out for your information.

322. In Behar there are only four principle Zamindars [sic] those of Sunnout, Terhoot, Shahabad and Champarun. The remaining Zemindars are in number some thousands.

323. For a period longer before the Company's accession to the Dewanny, and constantly since, it has been the practice generally speaking to let the lands in Behar in Farm, or to delegate the management of them to Officers on the part of Government.

324. Experience has fully shown that the farming system is ill calculated to improve a Country, and it is contrary to the principles which, in Conformity to your Directions, we wish to Establish of availing ourselves as much as possible of the Services of the Proprietors of the Lands.

325. We have accordingly vested the Collectors with a discretionary power to conclude the Settlement of their respective divisions with the actual Proprietors of the soil, in all cases where they may deem it practicable and expedient. In adopting a Variation from a long established practice, We did not for the Reasons assigned upon our Proceedings, think it, proper to issue more positive Instructions.

326. For further particulars regarding this Arrangement and our instructions to the several Collectors, we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings of the 15th August and to our Consultations of the 27th of the same month for our Orders respecting the Settlement of the Orissa Districts.

327. The Collector of Midnapore having in the year 1786/7, stated  
 March 12th. that heavy losses had been sustained by the Zemindars from drought and inundation, the Board of  
 April 11th. Revenue relying upon the detailed representations  
 May 16th. of the Collector and with a view to relieve the des-  
 Aug. 8, 15, 29. tresses [sic] of the Inhabitants were induced to allow  
 Sept. 3d. and recommend a remission of 61,000 Rs. in the Assessment of that District.

328. In the following year 1787/8 the Collector again stated that the Zamindars has [sic] suffered losses exceeding those of the former year, from the Storm which happened in the month of November last, and urg'd the necessity of affording them relief.

329. From the result of an enquiry instituted to ascertain the truth of these representations, and from the subsequent Correspondence of the Collector, it appear'd that not only the Accounts of the damage done to the Crops had been great to exagenoted [greatly exaggerated], and that Mr. Pearce at the time he was soliciting these remissions and well acquainted that the Assets of the District were apparently sufficiently ample to allow of a temporary loss, without subjecting the Government to all the consequences of it, or distressing the Zemindars by a refusal to admit it.

330. Conceiving that the Collection [collector] was guilty of a breach of duty in not having timely communicated to the Board of Revenue the information he possess'd regarding the resources of the district in order that it might have been made use of an a counter balances [as a counter balance] to the claims for remissions set up by the Zemindars in both years, we thought proper to suspend him from his office and to direct him to repair to Calcutta to Answer for his conduct, and appointed. Mr. [C. Burrowes] to take Charge of the Collectership of Midnapore with special instructions to make a local investigation into the actual produce of the country, the grounds of which are fully stated in our proceedings.

331. Mr. Peiarce died soon after his arrival in Calcutta before he had an opportunity of entering upon his defence. His executors have laid before us a Letter found among his papers after his decease, containing a reply to the several charges preferred against him, and should it contain any thing [worthy ?] of your notice we shall communicate it to you in a future address.

332. The dessentions which arose among the Members of the Board of Revenue regarding the remission in Midnapore in the year 1786, with our Sentiments and final decision thereon will be found in the Proceedings noted in the Margin.

333. Ishwur Chund the Son of the late Rajah of Nuddea having petitioned us for the restoration of his Moshairah and it appearing that the late Rajah was dispossessed of the management of his Zemindarry in the Year 1193 B.S. and that no provision was then made for him or his family, notwithstanding all his private Lands and sources of emolument had been resumed, and his Zemindarry paid a higher rent than had ever been received from it since the Dewanny. We accordingly resolved to allow the present Rajah the Sum of 47,000 Rupees Pr. Annum from the date of his father's dispossession as Moshairah, to be continued to him till such time as he should be restored to the Management of his Lands; after which it will of course were [lapse ?]

334. Balances to a considerable amount being due from the Zemindarry to Government we directed that the whole of the Moshairah for 1194, and such portion of it annually from the commencement of 1195 as might be consistent with the necessities of the Rajah and his family should be appropriated for their liquidation.

335. We have referr'd for your decision the following case relating to the Balances due from the Ranny of Rajeshahe.  
 April 3d.  
 May 7th.

336. A Settlement was concluded by the late Committee of Revenue with the Ranny of Rajishahee in April 1784 in specific terms for a period of four years, and in consequence of the Engagements then contracted she was entitled to receive an allowance of Moshairah to the annual Amount of rupees 250,000.

337. The intention of making these Engagements was communicated to Government by the Committee on the 12th April. On the 6th May following Government observed to the Committee, that no express cause was assigned for the seeming decrease in the Jumma proposed for the District of Rajeshahee, and called for the particulars of it, and the amount of the Collections for the three preceding years with the charges attending them, which were sent in on the 13th May, but no resolution was then or subsequently passed disapproving of the Settlement which was therefore impliedly admitted and sanctioned.

338. In 1786 it was determined to resume the Moshaira generally throughout Bengal according to certain rules then established, and a member of the Board of Revenue was deputed to make a new Settlement with the Ranny of Rajeshahee altho' the period of the Original lease was unexpired.

339. The Ranny being then informed of the general measure abolishing the Moshairah, a Settlement was proposed to her for 1193 (which was the 3d year of the said Original lease) at the same amount as that settled for the two years preceding, but without any allowance of Moshairah, and as far as appears, she did not make any

public objections to such an Engagement, altho' it cannot be understood that her acquiescence in it was voluntary.

340. It therefore became a question how far Government were bound in justice to observe the original engagement of 1784, and were authorized to insist on the Ranny's contracting a new [one?] at higher rate before the Expiration of the period of that original Engagement, which was for four years.

341. The plea of balances due from her has not been urged on the present occasion. The parties in the question were the Government and the Ranny, and whatever decision might have been adopted some doubts must have arisen. We accordingly thought proper to forbear for the present from the rigid Exaction of terms not to all appearance willingly yielded to by the Subject against the force of an engagement actually subsisting when those terms were made, and to leave it to you to determine either to confirm one Engagement or the other as you might judge advisable.

342. We accordingly determined that the claim to a part of the balance owing by the Ranny of Rajeshahye equal to the Amount of the Moshairah for 1193 B.S. according to the terms of the Engagement of 1784 E.S. be suspended but not relinquished, and that a portion of the Zemindarry equal the [to] the discharge of the remaining balance should be sold, including in this balance the Russud or proportion for 1193 as fixed by the Engagement of 1784, and giving credit to the Zemindar for the sum of rupees 2303-15-10 on account of the adjustment which was made of Moshairah to the end of 1190. A Portion of the Zemindarry had previously been sold in discharge of the Arrear which the Zemindar had incurred.

343. Since passing the above decision, Rajah Ramkishun having established his title to the succession to the Zemindarry of Rajishahee as heir to the Ranny Bhowanny by right of Adoption, and the latter having petitioned for leave to make an immediate surrender of all her rights as Zemindar to her adopted Son, we have accordingly vested Rajah Ramkishun with the succession to the Zemindarry of Rajashahee, and the Rajah having agreed to discharge such sums as may appear due from the Zemindarry upon a final adjustment of the Account of Balances above referred to you and of his claims to Moshairah, we have accordingly countermanded our orders for the sale of a portion of the Lands Our proceedings relating to the imputard[sic] Decision are recorded in the 30th July & 30 August.

We point them out to your particular Notice, as our Resolutions past in opposition to an Order of the former Government.

344. The situation of the District of Bettoreah in the Zemindarry of Rajashahye appearing to us to afford a favourable Opportunity for bringing to the test of experience Mr. Grant's propositions on the Subject of the Revenues, we accordingly proposed to invest him with the charge of Bettoreah with ample powers to enable him to carry his plan into execution. That Gentleman however having thought proper to decline this

July 30  
Augt. 30

May 9th

deputation, and conceiving that the objections to it which he had stated might not be equally applicable to other districts we accordingly proposed to him a similar commission in Midnapore and Jellasure.

345. Mr. Grant however acquainted us that the motives which rendered him averse to taking charge of Bettoreah operated with equal force with respect to every other Collectorship within the three provinces. We accordingly left the Collector of Rajishahee to form the settlement of Bettoreah upon the principles of his general Instructions, and nominated Mr. Burrowes to the full charge of the District of Midnapore.

June 2

346. Having received the replies of Mohummed Hossein at Hyderabad to the Questions to him regarding the Rights of Zemindars, and which did not arrive in time to accompany Mr. Shore's Minute on the Rights of Zemindars forwarded to you with our Letter of the 6th March last per Rodney, we now transmit a Copy thereof a separate number in the Packet.

August 20

### Salt

347. The average price of the Salt sold at Dacca on the 15th April 7th March was 312 Rs. Pr. Hundred Maunds.

348. Agreeable to the Advertisement of the 2nd April a sale of Eight Lacks of Maunds of Salt took place at Calcutta, on the 1st May, and a like quantity was disposed of on the 9th June. The average price at the former Sale was 409. S. Rs. and at the latter 341 Sa. Rs. Per Maunds.

349. The price of Salt in the Market continuing at a higher rate than we expected, and the quantity annually manufactured having fallen short in consequence of the late unfavourable season. In order to obviate any distress which the Inhabitants might suffer from a scarcity of this Article, we deemed it expedient to advertise for proposals of Contract for delivering at Calcutta three Lacks of Maunds of Salt the produce of the Northern Sircars on the Coast of Coromandel, and Mr. George Tyler having in consequence given in proposals for providing that quantity at the rate of 120 Sicca Rupees per Hundred Maunds, we accepted the same and have accordingly concluded engagements with him for the Amount.

July 2nd.

" 7th

August 20th

Sept. 3rd

" 5th

We cannot but attribute the very high price which hasitute [sic] has become as the public Sales, to combinations. [.....] the Native Merchants, & Native [.....] the pecuniary Advantages which the Company derive from the enhanced price, We cannot but, express our Sentiments that the General Benefit of the Community requires that it should be with a Vice [sic] of a produce this effect, the Sales were continued from time to time, but if the price of Salt to the Consummed [consumer] should not be reduced by these means and if no other expedient should occur to render it less chargeable to the People in general, the Imputation [importation] of larger Quantities from the Coast, on the Company's

Account, will We presume with a very little Diminution of the present Profits, answer the proposed Object.

### Grain

350. In the 39th, 40th & 41st Paragraphs of our Letter of the 12th February Pr. Atlas\* we acquainted you with the measures we had taken to allviate the distresses under which the Inhabitants in several parts of the Country laboured from the scarcity of Grain occasioned by the destruction of the Crops by inundation.

351. The evil appears not to have been felt in any considerable degree beyond the lower parts of Bengal, which from their Situation were particularly exposed to the effects of the Inundation. The Inhabitants of the Dacca District have been the principal sufferers. Our exertions to relieve their distresses as well as those of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, and the Country adjacent will appear from our Proceedings noted in the Margin.

12th 19th 24th 26th  
March, 2nd 3rd 4th  
14th 17th 21st 23rd  
28th 30th April,  
7th 14th 16th 21st  
28th May, 4th 11th  
June, 2nd 9th 16th  
23rd July 11th Aug.

352. It is with the greatest satisfaction however we acquaint you that the present Season has in general been remarkably favourable the crops, with some few exceptions, are in a flourishing state, and afford the most flattering prospect of returning plenty. The distress at present extends to a very fine [few ?] and principally to those, who have been tempted by the Charitable Distributions of Rice to repare to Calcutta.

### Poolbundy

353. The Collectors of Jessore, Nuddea, and the Salt Districts, having represented to us the necessity of immediately repairing the embankments in their districts which had suffered considerably from the severity of the inundation, and having the fullest reliance on their integrity, we authorized them to disburse an amount not exceeding their several account of their expenditures.

March 12th

354. We have likewise authorized a further advance of 15,000 Rupees for the repairs of the embankments in Burdwan, which in our letter of the 6th March last P. Rodney we acquainted you had been placed under the Superintendence of Mr. Thomas Marriott.

July 9th

### Benares

355. The Resident at Benares having transmitted to us an account of the annual Remissions granted to the Zemindar from the amount of his Revenues, with a statement of the Claims of several individuals to landed property in that district, we came to final resolutions on the several Articles respectively, for the particulars of which, and the principles which guided our determination we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings of the 2d & 11th April and 21st May.

\*It has only 37 paras the last of which refers to the subject concerned.

### Customs

356. Having maturely considered the Letter and spirit of the Orders of the Secret Committee under date the 3d November 1787 regarding the regulations of the Customs, We came to the following Resolutions.

#### Calcutta Town Duties

357. That the Calcutta Town Duties on all Goods imported into Calcutta should be levied as heretofore with the exception of the duties on Grain levied by the Custom Master which should be discontinued.

#### Government Customs

358. 1st That the Government Customs levied at Calcutta, Hughly, Moorshedabad, Dacca and Chittagong should be abolished from the 30th June.

2d. That no Government Customs whatever should be levied in any part of the three Provinces except at Manjee, a town at the conflux of the Rivers Ganges and Gogra, where the Government Customs should be collected at the rate of 2½ P. Cent on the value of all Goods imported into, or exported from the Provinces upon their passing the Frontier of Behar.

359. Our reasons for coming to the above determination, with the arrangements which took place in consequence of them, are fully detailed in the Extract from our Proceedings of the 20th June which we transmit a separate number in the Packet.

#### Miscellaneous Occurrences

360. The disturbances excited in Cooch Behar during last year, March 12th and the disorders which have for some time past April 3rd, 1th, prevailed in that Country, appeared to demand our serious attention, We accordingly nominated Messrs 23rd Lawrence Mercer and J. L. Chauvet Commissioners May 13th, 14th with Instructions to proceed to that District, and July 2nd, 23rd, Enquire into the Causes of the late rebellion and 30th the present State of the Rajahs affairs, and to ascertain how far the terms of the agreement in 1772 by July 23rd, 30th which he engaged to become tributary to this Government have Augt. 27th been observed on our part, and to report to us their Opinion regarding the present state and future management of the Country.

361. Should the Report of the Commissioners contain any thing deserving of your attention we shall communicate it to you with our sentiments therein in a future address.

362. Mahummed Saleh Khan the son-in-Law of the late Nowaub Rohuddien Hussien Khan having Petitioned for the May 16th Continuance of a Pension of 5000 Rs. Pr. Menssem formerly allowed to his father which upon the Surmise of his having died without heirs, (as appears from the Petition and a Letter from Mr. Hastings to the late Governor General

recorded on our Proceedings of the 16th May<sup>o</sup>) was made over to the Nabob Mohummud Reza Khan for the maintenance of his two Sors, Behraam Jung and Delawiur Jung. The death of the former having afforded us an opportunity of showing some regard to the pretensions of Mohummud Salah Khan without affecting the objects of the Resolution of 1783, we accordingly directed that out of the whole allowance of 6000 Rs. Pr. Month, the Sum of 2500 Rupees should be continued to the Surviving Son of Mohummud Reza Khan and 1,300 Rupees to the Family of Behraam Jung, and that the remaining 1200 Rupees should be granted to the family of the late Nabob Rohudeen Hussein Khan.

363. Ruzzeah Begum and Fatemah Begum having established their Claims to a Share of the Jaghire enjoyed by the Family of the late Munneer and [sic] dowlah as daughters to that Nabob, we accordingly directed a new division thereof to be made as prescribed by the Mahomedan Laws, and conformable to your Orders of the 27th March 1787 have notified to Kereem Cooly Khan, one of the sons of the deceased Nabob now having [living] at Lucknow, that unless he takes up his residence in the Provinces within the space of six Months, his share of the Jaghire will be resumed.

364. In Considering the Report and information of the Roymungul Commissioners (whose deputation was communicated to you in our address of the 28th July 1787 P. Revensworth) two points principally attracted our attention, the general System for the Manufacture of Salt and the particular complaints, by the General System we mean only the Rules and Regulations established in the Roymungul Agency, which have been more severe and arbitrary than those in other parts of the Country, where the Salt is provided upon more lenient principles and with less risk to the Manufacturers.

365. Nothing could in our Apprehension be more arbitrary or oppressive than a principle which compels a man to work whether he will or not in a situation attended with great personal Risk and injury to his health. This appears to have been the principle of the Roymungul Regulations, by which a Man once employed as a salt worker was ever after bound to remain so, and was liable to be seized and sent to the works by force in case he refused voluntary submission and the obligation extended to his posterity, from whom a compliance might be exacted in the same manner.

366. The establishment of this System however is not to be confounded with that of the Salt Office. It is probably [sic] that it was far more oppressive before, and originated in the arbitrary Government of the Natives. In the other Agencies of the Twenty four Pergunnahs, Higelee, and Tumlook, the situation of the Country is more favourable to the Manufacturers and on this account the same severity is not required to compel their Services.

367. The Cumpulsion [sic] exercised over the Salt workers appears to have been the source of all the prevailing abuses and even before the receipt of the Report of the Commissioners we had confirmed the measures adopted by the Collector of Jessore, to whom

the greatest part of the Roymungul Agency was made over for eradicating the Oppressive principle. In the Twenty four Pergunahs a representation was made for an encrease of wages which was allowed, and the Manufacturers preferred no other Complaints.

368. The complicated abuse which flowed from the System of Coercision [sic] established in Roymungul are detailed in the Report of the Commissioners and we avoid a recapitulation which cannot be read without disgust, and Compassion for the sufferers.

369. Whatever the consequences might be to the success of the Manufacture of Salt, we deemed ourselves bound by every principle of justice and humanity and regard for the Reputation of Government, to put an end to a system so replite [sic] with Cruelty, in justice and oppression.

370. We accordingly thought to declare it as a fixed principle in the Conduct of the business throughout the Salt Department that no compulsion on any plea whatever should be used to make the manufacturers Work, but that their services should be entirely voluntary, and that all such as had hitherto been employed and should not choose in future to engage in the Manufacture of Salt, should be allowed to follow such other occupations as they might think proper without hindrance or molestation, and that no persons whatever should be obliged to contract for the provision of Salt Against his inclination.

371. The General and local Regulations we thought proper to adopt for enforcing these principles and for the better conduct of the Salt Manufacture are recorded on our Proceedings of the 24th September.

372. In Consequence of your directions the sum allowed to Lieut. Ranken for the repair of the new Road was last year reduced from 17,707-12 to Rs. 16,000. The latter Sum was originally fixed upon an estimate of 40 Rs. P. Mile for the 400 Miles the supposed measurement of the Road, but the actual distance appearing to be upwards of 442 Miles, a proportionate additional allowance was afterwards granted for the extra forty two Miles conceiving your orders for limiting the Sum for the Repairs to 16,000 Rs. to have been issued on a supposition that the original estimated measurement of the Road was accurate, and being convinced that the rate allowed Pr. Mile is by no means more than is necessary to do justice to the work, we have accordingly agreed to restore to Lt. Ranken the additional Sum of 1707.12 for the Repairs of the extra forty two Miles from the ensuing Year.

373. By a Resolution of the former Government the Nabob Mahummed Reza Khan was permitted to Exchange a Jaghire which he held in the Dacca Province in the name of his Brother Mahummed Hussien for other Lands in the vicinity of Moorshedabad. By the Terms of the original grant it appears that certain Fauzdary services were annexed to it. This condition whether intended to have been effective or not, was for some years nominal, and although in strictness, the jaghire, on the grounds of non performance of the services

annexed to it, might have been resumed, yet as the amount of the assignment was small Consideration for the Character rank and Services of the Nabob Mohummed Reza Khan induced us to confirm the exchange solicited by him, and which had virtually though not formally taken place before the arrival of the present Governor General. We hope that the same motives will induce you to Confirm the possession to the Nabob as it is no actual diminution of your Revenues, the Lands held by him in the Dacca Province having been reannexed to the Rental of the Zemindars.

374. Having thought proper to frame a new Code of Regulations for the Conduct of the Board of Revenue, we beg leave to refer you for the same to our Proceedings of the 7th May.

375. We have likewise laid down some general Rules regarding the Rent free and alienated lands which you will find recorded in Our Proceedings of the 23rd April and 8th August. We have defer'd our final confirmation of the Regulations respecting the latter tenures till such time as we shall have receiv'd the replies to the several references regarding them which we have made to Collectors, and should the information they may furnish suggest to us material alterations we shall point them out to you in a future address.

376. A List of the Appointments which have taken place in this Department from the beginning of March to the end of September is transmitted a separate Number in the Packet.

Fort William,  
6 Novr. 1788

We have the Honor to be  
Hon'ble Sirs

[Per William Pitt]

Your most faithful Humble Servants.

40

LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1788

*Shipping details—remittances for China investment—resolution regarding export of private goods on Company's ships relaxed for 1788-79—experiments in Benares and Bihar on cotton seed from Bombay—committee for recovering outstanding balances abolished—Lt-Col. Call to present his General Atlas of India to Court of Directors—coinage on minting silver reduced to one per cent.*

**T**O The Honble the Court of Directors

Honble Sirs,

Military Department\*

\* \* \* \* \*

\*See *Fort William-India House Correspondence*, Vol. XIX for paragraphs relating to the Military Department.

Public Department

21. Your ship William Pitt was dispatched by the agent on the 15th of last month, and on the 17th She was quitted by her Pilot.  
Cons. 26th Nov.

22. We forward to you by the Triton a Continuation of our Proceedings in this Department for the month of November with Index.  
Pub. Dept. [...] November with Index.  
Fort Marlbro' [...] regarding Contingent Bills  
Prince of Wales Island[...]

23. The Dublin having imported here on the 6th Ultimo, all your ships destined [sic] to Bengal this season are now arrived and will return to Europe in the order stated in our Sept. advices by the William Pitt.  
Cons. 12th Nov.

24. The Commander of the Triton having requested permission to pay into the Company's Treasury at Bencoolen fifteen hundred Pounds from the Produce of his Investment for Privilege Certificates we have complied with his application.

25. A Certificate having been delivered to us by two surgeons that Mr. James Key Bruce, the surgeon of the Triton, is so much indisposed that it is absolutely impossible for him to go on board the ship without the most imminent Danger to his life, he has been permitted to remain in Bengal for his Recovery.

Fort St. George & Bombay

26. By the Manship we have remitted to Fort St. George a quantity of Gold Bullion equal to Current Rupees 1,15,009-12-2 and by the Phoenix and Dublin we propose to send to Madras further supplies of Gold Bullion making the total amount of the Remittances by the three ships, three lacks of Rupees.

27. We have engaged a Remittance of Bills to Bombay for three Lacks of Sicca Rupees, and advertized for proposals to remit a further sum to that Presidency.

Canton

28. The Mode of effecting Remittances to your supra Cargoes at Canton for the ensuing year, that is, for the season of 1789/90 was introduced for consideration by the Governor General, in a Minute which his Lordship delivered in Council on the 17th of November, a copy of this Minute, and of the advertizement which we published in consequence make a number in the Packet and we beg leave to refer them to your Perusal as containing the Grounds upon which Engagements to the Extent of 12 Lacks have been made conformably to the Report of a Committee composed of the senior Members of the Boards of Revenue and Trade, and your Accountant General to whom the applications for share in the Remittance were referred for Examination.  
Cons. 26th Nov.

29. We are happy to inform you that the most favorable accounts have been received from your supra cargoes of the Remittances which we provided during the last year, and of the General situation of your Affairs in China.  
Cons. 1st Dec.

30. Those Remittances with the Consignments from the other Presidencies and Europe are deemed Sufficient to discharge the Canton Debts of last Season, which proved less than was expected, and to pay for the Investment of this Year.

#### Fort Marlbro

31. Our Consultations Noted in the Margin contain the few Subjects regarding Fort Marlbro' that have been discussed since the Departure of the William Pitt. They Consist Chiefly to References made to us by Mr. Crisp, who came here in the Airly Castle, upon Points relative to the internal Management of Your Affairs at Bencoolen, and upon those immediately connected with his own Situation as Deputy Governor of that Settlement, with our Answers.

32. The Airly Castle will be dispatched to Fort Marlbro' on the 30th. Instant with Consignment of Ophium and Stores ready to be sent there. She will stop at Fort. St. George in her way. Mr. Crisp, with a View to accelerate the Dispatch of the Ship to Europe by arrangements prior to her Arrival at Bencoolen has proceeded from hence in a Country Ship.

#### Commercial & Shipping

33. Our Advices by the William Pitt (Paragraphs 240-248\*) will have acquainted You with our Proceedings relative to the Investment of the next Year 1789. We have now only to add in Continuation of them, that Your Board of Trade having proceeded from the different Agents Statements of the Periods and Proportions at which the Advances would be required Submitted to us their final Opinions upon these Points. Convinced of the Propriety of their Recommendations, we acquiesced in them, and issued immediate Orders to the Board of Revenue to make arrangements for the Supplies at the Times Specified. The particulars will appear in an Abstract account forwarded in the present Dispatch.

34. According to the Intimation conveyed in the 249th Paragraph of our Letter Pr. William Pitt, Mr. Prager has been advanced One Lac of Sicca Rupees to purchase Drugs for the Investment to be exported in the Ships of this Season.

35. The Letter from the Board of Trade which was dispatched by the William Pitt, containing the Detail of Affairs under their Management, will probably have Suggested to You an Idea that the expected Receipts of Your Investment intended to be exported this Year would be retarded by the Inclemencies of the Season, tho' every possible Exertion were [sic] made to prevent it.

\* Copyist's error, ought to be paras 246-247.

36. With a view to obviate the Inconvenience of such a contingency, we have published an Advertizement in general Terms Stating our Expectation that there will be vacant Tonnage in Your Ships, and, as we understand that Persons who are now possessed of Goods would be accommodated by Permission to lade them, desiring that all who wished to avail themselves of the Indulgence would Notify the same by the 22d. Instant, Specifying with accuracy the kinds and qualities of Goods they would freight excepting Raw Silk. When the Extent of the applications has been seen, We shall determine how far they can be complied with and on what Ships the Goods can be most conveniently Sent.

Consns. Decr.

37. We have duly adverted to our former Resolution that no Goods should be allowed to be sent Home on the Company's Ships; but as the Permission from the Lateness of the Notice given could not affect the Determinations already made to embrace the Opportunity of the Remittance Offered, We did not hesitate to adopt this Mode of Supplying the vacant Tonnage.

38. We have allowed Mr. Joseph Price to lade in the Triton ten whole Bales & one half of Muster Cotton on his paying freight for the same.

39. The Manship's Dispatches for Fort St. George were sent from the Office on the 20th Instant. She carries half a Cargo from Bengal amounting to C. Rs. 6,18,881-10-3. The rest of her Tonnage will be Supplied on the Coast.

40. The Invoice, Bills of Landing & Papers Relating to the Manship will be forwarded to You from that Presidency.

41. A Quantity of Cotton Seed having been received from Bombay by the Northumberland, we have given Orders for dispatching it to the Districts of Benares and Behar, that a Particular Experiment may be made of its produce in these Countries.

#### • Marine

42. The Sixth and last Schooner imported here from Bombay on the 12th. Ultimo, and was immediately ordered into the Pilot Service. The Eliza, one of the old Vessels, and deemed the least Serviceable, will be disposed of at Public Sale to make room for her. The Accounts of these vessels have not Yet been transmitted to us from Bombay. We are therefore unable to acquaint You with their Cost. Our observation upon those which Arrived before the Tweed, in regard to their Conditions & ca Appears as far as we can Judge, to be equally applicable to this Vessel.

43. We beg leave to advise You that the Indents for Marine Stores by the Rodney & Princess Amelia have been drawn up with a View to the Probable Annual Expenditure of the Sloops & Yachts only, independant of such Stores as Your Hon'ble Court may think proper to forward to Supply the wants of Your freighted Ships on those of the Country Tonnage in General.

## Accounts &amp; Audits

44. Our Proceedings noted in the Margin contain a third report from the Committee for investigating & recovering outstanding Balances. Our Time has been too fully engaged in Consn. 5 Novr. more pressing Business, to allow us to allot any part of it to passing Resolutions upon this Report. We have however abolished the Committee & the Establishment allotted to it from the End of November, & propose to finish the Subject by an Ultimate Decision upon the remaining points very soon.

45. The Award of the Arbitrators who were appointed in our Resolutions upon the Committees Second report to determine upon a Charge inserted in the Accounts of Mr. Smoult's Contract for delivering Rice at Patna in the Year 1783/4; which Consn. 6 Novr. stood as a Balance against him upon Your Books, 6 Octr. has exonerated him from the whole Amount Viz 26 Novr. 36,085-9-9 and we have authorized it to be written off. The grounds of this Reference & Consequent Award will appear in the Proceedings noted in the Margin.

## Law

46. The answers of Sundry Persons to the Bills filed against them, on account of the Purchases of ready made Goods in 1784 were transmitted to You by the William Pitt and Noticed in the 294th Paragraph of our Letter by that Ship.

47. Your Advocate General's Opinion, in which he recommends the suits against some to be dismissed against others to be continually Continued, and against others to be proceeded in without Delay attends You in the Consn. 16 Novr. Present Dispatch. Our Orders have been issued in Conformity to it.

48. Mr. Wroughton having been compelled from the Bad State of his Health to resign the Appointment of Attorney at Law to the Company, Mr. William Jackson has Consn. 5 Decr. Succeeded thereto Pursuant to the Orders conveyed in the [10th] Paragraph of Your General Letter dated the 27th of March 1787.

49. Mr. Wroughton having acted in the Office of Company's Attorney for Several Years, and Conducted the business of it to the Satisfaction of this Government We have expressed our Sentiments to that Effect upon our Proceedings, & beg leave to recommend him to Your favourable Notice.

## Miscellenea

50. Lieutenant Colonel Call who proceeded to Europe on the William Pitt will present to Your Hon'ble Court twelve Sheets of the General Atlas of the Map of India. This mode of Consn. 12 Novr. Conveyance was adopted with our Sanction, that Lieutenant Colonel Call might have the Benefit of referring to them during the Passage. The Sheet No. 1 which

Contains Bengal and is the only one wanting to complete the Atlas. are in hopes will be ready for this Ship or the next.

51. A Copy of the Chart of the Streights of Reho with an Extract from the Surveyor General's Letter which accompanied it is forwarded to You by the Triton.  
Consn. 1 Decr.

52. We have the Honor to transmit to you by this Ship a Letter in Persian from the Nawaub Mobarck ul Dowlah with an English Translation of it.

### Commercial & Shipping

53. An Exorbitant Batta having for Several Months been demanded on the Exchange of Silver for Gold, we have tried various Means of Stopping this abuse, & with Considerable Success. We have lately determined that after the 31st of this Month, the Duty and Charges on the Coinage of Silver Bullion at the Mint, amounting to three Sicca Rupees & three Pice P. Cent Shall be reduced to one Pr. Cent.

54. The State of our Treasury this Day is as follows.

Ready money . . .			
Gold Mohurs 14,151-13-0	2,26,429	0 0	2,62,657 10 3
Siccas . . . . .	4,92,473	12 3	5,71,269 9 2
Copper Coin . . . . .	3,667	0 0	4,253 11 6
			8,38,180 14 1
Bills Receivable	5,04,522	5 11	5,85,245 15 2
			<hr/>
Current Rupees			14,23,426 14 1
			<hr/>
Balance Account Deposits			1,297, 18 14 9
Balance Accomptant General to the Mayors Court			1,16,918 3 3
Balance of the old Bonded Debt on the Interest has ceased by Public Advertisement			36,102 0 2
New Bonded Debt at 8 P cent			1,17,08278 10 2
Ditto Do. Acct. Madras My. Arrears			35,54,798 15 5
Ditto Do. Ditto Bombay Military Arrears			15,39,798 13 1
4 P cent Remittance Loan.			20,000 0 0
			<hr/>
			1,71,05,020—0 10

We have the honor to be

Fort William  
the 22d December 1788  
[Per Triton]

Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your Most Obedient  
and Faithful Servants.



## **APPENDIX**



## APPENDIX

### LETTERS FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE

#### I

LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1786

*The French permitted to buy saltpetre at old rates—investment for the season 1786-87.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

We had the honor to adress you on the 24th of last Month by the King George and now send Duplicate\* of our Letter by that Conveyance on the Dutton, which proceeds to you  
Para 1st with a Cargo amounting by the accompanying Invoices to Current Rupees 12,71250, the Bills of lading of which will be forwarded in due Course.

2d. We submit in a separate Number of our Packet by this Ship, our Correspondence with the Governor General & Council relative to the lading of your Ships of this Season alluded to in the 6th Paragraph of our Address by the King George. We have adopted this Mode in preference to our purpose which we there mentioned of entering in to the detail here in Consideration that the latter Course would be attended with an usual Extension of this Letter, also that the Facts and Circumstances contained in the Correspondence coming equally before you in the mode we have adopted are best suited for your Information in their original Form and order, upon the whole we confide in the Validity of our Arguments for our Justification in the Relations stated in the Correspondence and for securing to us your Approbation of our Conduct.

3d. In our Proceedings submitted by the successive dispatches of your Ships you will have become acquainted with the Resolutions passed by the Governor Gnl. and Council, respectively in favour of the French and Dutch for allowing them for the Current Year the Quantities of Salt Petre they received annually before the Commencement of the late War at the same Price they were at that time accustomed to pay for it.

4th. In pursuance of the Indulgence Monsieur Dangereux Agent for the French Nation in these Provinces applied to us in November last premising it was then too late to receive the Salt Petre according to Custom at Patna, for the delivery of it in Calcutta, the Proportion of the French being eighteen thousand Maunds.

5th. We were of opinion the Request of Monsieur Dangereux both as being a Deviation from former Usage and exempting the French from the Transportation of the Salt Petre to the Presidency at their Risque was inadmissible but we thought necessary to refer it to the Governor General and Council, whom we acquainted with the Sentiments we entertained thereon.

6th. Finally the Hon'ble Board were pleased to express their wish that Monsieur Dangereux's Request for the Delivery of the Salt Petre to the French in Calcutta might be complied with, charging the Expence of Transportation from Patna, with a reasonable Per Centage on account of the Risque of the way to Monsieur Dangereux, and we have given our orders accordingly. In this Stage the Transaction for the present rests. Mr. Rider one of our Members objected to the Accommodation of the French in this Respect for the Reasons stated in his Dissent referr'd to in the Margin.

7. In Continuance of Your Intelligence relative to our Proceedings concerning the Practices discovered to prevail against Your Property on the River we are to acquaint you your Attorney at Law upon perusing the Papers and Examination of the Persons respecting the Prisoners confined in Jail on that Suspicion could only find sufficient Evidence to convict Six of them.

8. Accordingly Indictments were prepared against those Six nominally and found by the Grand Jury and they have been since tried and all of them convicted but one who could not be proved subject to the Jurisdiction of the Court, of the Sentences passed by the Court upon the Prisoners convicted, no Report has yet been made to us.

9. We have the honor to submit a separate Number in this Packet an address from the Export Warehouse Keeper on the Communication to him of the several Paragraphs of Your general Letter of the 11th April 1785, relating to the Export Warehouse, and beg Leave to express our Sentiments thereon that the Circumstances set forth by this Officer in Reply to Para<sup>s</sup>. 48, 52 contain a full Exculpation of the Servants in the Export Warehouse on the Points alluded to in those Paragraphs.

10. The Contracts for Raw Silk have hitherto been regulated by the Common Rule of the Seer of 72 Sa. wt. but we have now resolved that in all future Engagements for Goods of all kinds deliverable by the Factory Maund of that denomination shall be rated agreeably to the Europe Standard of 72-11-7 Sicca Wt. the Factory Seer, being the Proportion of one Maund and a half or sixty Seers to the 112 lbs or 1 Cwt avoirdupois.

11. Previous to arranging the Investment of the ensuing Year We shall take into our Consideration whether the Goods shall be received in the usual Manner from the Subordinate Factories or whether they shall be sent down to be repacked in the Export Warehouse in the manner the Goods are received from the Aurungs and shall determine this Point as in our Judgement may best consist with the objects to be Considered in it.

12. In the meantime we have forwarded to the Subordinate Factories Copies of the 52 Paragraph of Your general Letter in Question with our most positive Injunctions to the Chiefs and Residents to be very attentive in future to the Circumstances mentioned in it as we shall hold them responsible for any Complaints that may arise thereon in future.

13. In our General Letter by the King George we acknowledged the receipt of the Extracts of Your general Letter of the 8th July by the Surprize with which we were furnished as relating to your Commercial Department, and have taken the necessary Measures in

Obedience to Your Commands conveyed to us therein shall at present only advert to the 67 Para. of the Extracts in which you express your Expectation agreeably to our Address of the 3d. December 1784 of the Result of our Enquiries for ascertaining the Causes concurring notwithstanding the Cheapness of Labor in Bengal, to render the Price of the Raw Silk produced in that Country higher than the Cost of the same Article from Italy.

14. It is necessary to mention that under the Impression of your late orders relative to Raw Silk the Prosecution of this Enquiry did not appear to us an object requiring the Remission of our Attention from some other Points more immediately essential which for some Time past have demanded our unremitted Care but agreeably to Your Expectation we shall now furnish you with this Information with all the Dispatch and Accuracy We may be able to obtain it.

15. On this Ship Mr. Droz one of the Members of our Board repairs to Europe for the Adjustment of his private Affairs with the Leave of Absence of the Hon'ble the Governor General and Council for three Years from his duty here, and their Permission to receive while absent for this Period the same Allowance with which Senior Merchants have been indulged in Similiar Situations, Mr. Droz with our Consent will transmit to us his Resignation of his Seat at our Board upon his Embarkation on the Dutton when we shall proceed to fill the Vacancy with the Appointment in his Place of the next Senior Servant in Your Civil Establishment under this Presidency.

16. Mr. Droz having entered on our Records a Statement delivered upon his Oath of his Actual Loss sustained by discount and the Difference of Interest between that allowed him by the Company and what he was obliged to pay for Money he borrowed for the Provision of Your Investment at Cossimbuzar, in consequence of his having solely received Company's Bonds for that Service, we have furnished him agreeably to his Request with an attested Copy of the Statement and feeling extreme Concern for his heavy Losses thus ascertained, are induced to recommend the Contents to Your Consideration and earnestly to interest ourselves with your Hon'ble Court for Mr. Droz's Relief to which Indulgence in Addition to the Circumstances of his Case above stated He possesses the Pretensions of a course of long and approved Services.

17. Following the Orders of our Proceedings We are now to enter on the Subject of Your Investment for the Season of 1786/7 the Arrangements for which Services are now under Consideration.

18. Having furnished the Hon'ble Board the 3d. Ultimo with an Abstract Amount of the Investment for that Year as ordered by Your Honourable Court in the List received by the Dutton, and with distinct Transcripts of the Articles of Provision of the Factories and Aurungs agreeably thereto they were pleased to desire thereon we would advertize without further Delay for sealed Proposals of Contract in Conformity with the Lists to be delivered to their Secretary on or before the 15th March when they informed us they should proceed to the Consideration of them and to accept the lowest that might be offered provided they were accompanied with good Security in the advertizement they desired we would specify that the Contractors would be paid by Drafts on the Treasury bearing

the usual Interest of 8 P. Cent to be issued in such Proportions as we might deem most likely to secure their Investment to the Company and at fixed Periods to be stated in the Advertizement.

19. Upon the maturest Consideration of their Requisition and the Intimation with which it was accompanied we proceeded on the 31st ultimo to reply to their Letter and as the fullest means of affording you Information of our Arguments and Proposition founded thereon for the Regulation of the Advertizement by the Exclusion of the Goods immediately under the Superintendence of the Company's Servants from the Operation of it, submit a Copy of our Answer a Number in this Packet and the Subject being of a Nature peculiarly interesting to Your Commercial Concerns, earnestly solicit Your especial attention to it.

20. To this Address which was very lately Sent in to the Governor General & Council We are not yet favored with their Reply but having the fullest Reliance on the Justness of our Arguments and Conviction of the Propriety and Efficacy of the Measure of which we have proposed the adoption, trust their Minds may be impressed with corresponding Sentiments meantime we defer to issue the Advertizement until the Receipt of their Answer.

21. We have the honor to send accompanying the Continuation of the Broken Sett of Our Proceedings with Index and Appendix from the 20th December 1785 to 31st January 1786.

We are with Respect

Fort William

Hon'ble Sirs

7th February 1786.

Your faithful humble Servants

[Endorsement]

General Letter from the Board of Trade to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors dated 7 Feby.  
P. Dutton.

## II

### LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1786

*Additional goods as surplus tonnage not allowed—house rent allowance for Export Warehouse Keeper.*

(Copy)

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our last Respects were paid to you by the Dutton, Duplicate of our Address by that Ship, we now send on the Deptford, which proceeds to you with a Cargo, amounting by the accompanying

Invoices to Ct. 9,21,022 & you will receive in due course the Bills of Lading for the same.

2. Resuming in this Place the Communication of the Occurrences in this Department, necessary for your Information since our last Advices, We are primarily to mention that after sending in our Dispatches for the Dutton to the General Department, an Application came before us from her Commander, Capt. West for forty Tons of Goods in Addition to the Quantity before sent on Board, as Surplus Tonnage, with this Application we declined Compliance upon the same Principle that governed us in the Rejection of former Requisitions for this Purpose from the Commanders of your ships.

3. We had the honor to submit to you by the Dutton, Information of our progressive Correspondence with the Hon'ble the Governor General & Council relative to the Investment of the Season of 1786/7, up to the Period of our Letter of the 31st January last, Copy of which we submitted a Number of her Packet, and particularly referred to a Proposition on our Part, contained in it, for excepting the Goods immediately under the Superintendence of your Servants from the Operation of the Advertisement to be published for inviting Proposals of Contract for that Service.

4. We now beg leave further to acquaint you that our Proposition failed to obtain the Concurrence of the Hon'ble Board upon Grounds which they were pleased to state to us in a Letter under date the 13th Instt., unto which we had the Honor of replying on the 18th following; As these Letters, independent of their Relation to the Point in Question, are essential for your consideration, both from the Intelligence they contain of certain specific Clauses, We recommended for Insertion in the proposed Advertisement, & from the Continuation they include of the Correspondence since our last relative to the Loading of your Ships of this Season, We have submitted Copies of both in a Number of the present Packet. To our letter of the 18th We have not yet received a Reply, but the Hon'ble Board have since been pleased to desire through their Secretary that the Advertisement may be issued without further Delay, in Conformity with their Letter of the 13th Instant.

5. Since our Address of the 31st Decr. last, in which we advised you of the Demise of Mr. David Killican, & stated the Measures we had taken to obviate as much as possible in the Effects of that Event any Loss or Disappointment to the Company in their Commercial Interests, this Object has uniformly engaged our  
 Consms. 3d. Jany. 1786. Attention & been pursued in our Proceedings as  
 20th. Do. will appear in our Consultations, noted in the  
 27th Do. Margin, forwarded to you by the successive Dis-  
 7th Feby. patches of your Ships, referring to which for the  
 present, We postpone entering into a particular and separate Communication on the Subject until the Transaction in a maturer Stage of it, may enable us to furnish you with Information thereon of a conclusive Nature.

6. Permit us in this Place to solicit your Attention to the Situation of our Export Warehouse Keeper, under the  
 Cons. 31st Jany. 1786. Reduction directed in his Allowance, by the Dut-  
 7th Feby. ton, the Circumstances of which he laid before us

in an Address of the 10th November last, in which submitting that the Tenor of your Orders rather admitted than precluded a Claim of House Rent for the Accommodation of our Officers, where no specific Mention was made of such Allowance being included within the Sum limited by your Hon'ble Court, & pointing out, in Support of the Suggestion, a Distinction in your Said Orders in favor of the Accountant to the Department, he preferred a Solicitation for being allowed some Consideration for this Charge, which the reduced State of his Salary was not adequate to defray, and provide at the same Time on a very confined Scale for his Subsistence.

7. We were of Opinion your Orders for fixing the Allowance of the Export Warehouse Kr. at Sa. Rs. 500. P. Menssem, or 6000 per Annum, proceeded from your supposing he officially enjoyed, besides the Accommodation of a House, and such not being the Case, thought it just that this Gentleman, who independently of this equitable Title possessed every Claim to Consideration from his Industry and Services should be put on the same footing as our Accountant is placed by your Orders, Vizt, with House Rent (included at Sicca Rupees 300) Sa. Rs. 800 per Menssem or 9,600 per Annum.

8. But previous to coming to a Resolution in Conformity with these Sentiments, upon the united Principles of giving the readier Effect to your Orders, if those should eventually be for the Resumption of the Indulgence, and of providing for our own Indemnity under such Circumstances, we thought it proper to require as a Condition thereof from the Export Warehouse Keeper, to deliver to us an Acknowledgement to reimburse the whole Amount, which might be paid to him in Pursuance of our Compliance with his Solicitation in the Event of your Disapprobation, and Orders to that Effect.

9. The Export Warehouse Keeper having acceded to the Condition of our Compliance, our Resolution was accordingly passed in Conformity with it, and having now fully before you the Circumstances of the Case together with our Testimony to the Merits of the Officer whom it concerns, It only remains for us to Solicit the Communication of your Pleasure upon this Reference.

10. Mr. Droz having transmitted us from on board the Dutton his Resignation for the present of his Seat at our Board in Pursuance of the Intimation contained in our last we applied to the Governor General and Council for the Services of Mr. Edward Fenwick the next Senior Servant in your Civil Establishment to fill up the vacancy occasioned by this Event & Mr. Fenwick has accordingly this day taken his Seat at our Board.

11. We have already had occasion respectively in our Addresses of the 18th January last by the Berrington & 22d. of February by the Cornwallis to notice the Meritorious Conduct of Mr. Nicholas Grueber in the Station of Chief of our Factory at Luckipore, to which he was appointed upon the Exigency, we had the Honor fully to explain to you in our Address of the 3d. December 1784 by the Surprise.

12. A Continuance of the same unwearied Exertions and attention to Your Interest happily Manifested in the Subsequent Success of Your Investment from Luckipore of 1784/5 as well in the Quality as the Realization of it again entitles Mr. Grueber to the same Testimony from us, in his Favor to which we beg leave to add our hopes that his Perseverance in this Commendable Line of Conduct may have its due Effect with Your Hon'ble Court in Your favourable attention to him in consequence.

13. It is with Concern we convey to You the following Intimation which respects Mr. Henry Walter a Member of Your Board of Trade, The Conduct of this Gentleman both in his public Station and as an Individual has lately been replete with Instances of Extravagance and Disorder Amounting to undoubted Evidence of his Insanity, under these Circumstances we have found it Necessary to discontinue and lay him aside as an effective Member of Your Board of Trade, but Humanity requiring that the means of his Subsistence in this absence of his Reason should receive a Share of our Concern, we propose to continue him in the Enjoyment of his Salary as such until Your Pleasure can be known and as the Concurrence of the Governor General and Council appeared necessary to this End we referred to them on the Subject requesting the Communication of their Sentiments but are not yet favored with their Answer to our Reference, we trust the Melancholy Situation in which we have described a Servant of his long Standing may excite Your Commiseration and dispose your minds favorably towards the Means of alleviating the distresses of it.

14. The Loading of the Dublin the succeeding Ship in the order for that purpose is in such Forwardness as to ensure the Completion of it within a few Days, but as in precisely adhering to the Rule of dispatching her within Charterparty Time the Papers of her Cargo which are voluminous and require much time and attention in preparing and examining may not be ready to be sent with it we mention this circumstance to account eventually for the Irregularity.

Fort William

Board of Trade

the 24th February 1786.

We are with Respect

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your faithful humble Servants.

Post Script.

Having submitted to you respectively in our Packet by your Ship the Dutton & by this Conveyance the whole of our Correspondence with the Governor General & Council on the Subject of the Investment of 1786/7 and stated the Results in our present Letter we are now earnestly to solicit the Communication of your Pleasure on the Points therein contained & that this may reach us by the earliest opportunity that may succeed your Receipt of this Address.

Exd. Jno. Williams.

## III

## LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1786

*Enquiry into comparative costs of Indian and Italian raw silk—controversy regarding cargo for the Winterton.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

[Duplicate]

Hon'ble Sirs.

By the Dublin we have the Honor to send Duplicate of our last Address to your honorable Court under date the 24th February by the Deptford, together with the Continuation of the Broken Sett of our Proceedings with Index & Appendix from 7th to 18th February 1786, on the Dublin We have laden a Cargo Amounting to Current Rupees 9,89,000 & the Invoices in Case of a Delay in the Transmission of which we eventually Apologized in our Address by the Deptford, having by the Diligence of our Officers been duly Completed are submitted Accompanying this Address.

2. In prusuance of Paragraphs 13th & 14th of our General Letter by the Dutton, on the subject of the Enquiry you direct to be instituted for ascertaining the Causes, Conducting Notwithstanding the Cheapness of Labor in Bengal to render the Price of Raw Silk produced in this Country higher than the Cost of the same Article from Italy, we are to acquaint you that being of Opinion this Investigation could be more effectually prosecuted by a professional Person in this particular Branch & possessing more fully the Requisite of Leisure from other Avocations to attend to it we availed Ourselves to this End, the Services of Mr. James Frushard your Superintendent of Silk Filatures, whose Report on the Point in Question we submit in our present Packet & recommend the Contents to your Consideration as Corresponding with our own Sentiments and Experience.

3. The following Detail concerning your ship the Winterton Chiefly founded on Incidents since our last Advices, We think it our Duty to submit for your early Information.

4. The Circumstances under which that ship Arrived at this Place & the most earnest wish expressed to us by the Governor General and Council for providing a Cargo for her this Season, we had the Honor to mention in our Address of the 24th January last by the King George, and to state generally the Measures pursued in Consequence for Occupying the Tonnage of all your charter'd ships.

5. The Difficulties we experienced in effecting this Purpose are fully stated in our Correspondence with the Governor General and Council submitted to you in separate Numbers of our respective Packets by your Ships the Dutton and Deptford, they are such in which on your impartial Consideration of them we confide to impress your minds with corresponding conviction & prove our Complete Justification with your Hon'ble Court.

6. Under the Pressure<sup>o</sup> of these Difficulties the Hon'ble the Governor General and Council were pleased to call upon us under Date the 13th Ultimo for Information, whether it would be in our Power to load the Winterton by the 10th March, stating their Determination finally to dispatch Captain Snow on that Day with or without a Cargo & acquainting us, should it so happen there was not a sufficiency of Goods for the Winterton that they must endeavour to get her Tonnage taken up in some other manner, being resolved after the unfortunate Accident to the Hinchinbrooke that none of the Companys Ships should remain at their Risques after the Charter-party Period for their Dispatch.

7. In answer to this Enquiry Under date the 18th following We were much concerned to acquaint them it would not be practicable to load the Winterton by the 10th March, all the Goods actually in our Warehouse being appropriated for the Loading of the Dublin and as we could expect but a small Addition to them in the Course of the Current Month, We also Observed that our Contractors sensible of the pressing Necessity for Goods to complete the loading of the latter ships had under all their Difficulties strenuously exerted themselves to expedite their Deliveries in proper Time but with all the Assistance we should derive from their Exertions we did not expect Were they to delay the Departure of the Winterton to be able to load her before the end of March, and even in that Case should wish them to allow us to purchase 4 or 5 Lacks of ready Made Goods to Provide against those possible Disappointments to which from the Season of the Year we might be subject in the timely Arrival of the Goods of our Contractors.

8. The Expedient we pointed out in our Reply to their Enquiry failed to Obtain the Concurrence of the Hon'ble Board with which they were pleased to acquaint us on the 20th Ultimo, at the same Time they informed us being however unwilling the Winterton should return to England with only her Redwood & Salt Petre and understanding that several Merchants of this Place who possessed ready made Goods were desirous of sending them to Europe in the Company's Ships they had resolved to grant them Permission to load the same on board her, subject to certain Conditions of which they desired we would give immediate Notice by Public Advertisement.

9. On the 24th following We issued a Publication Accordingly in which the 15th March was fixed as the latest Period for sending away the Goods from the Export Warehouse & it was conditioned they would be received until the 12th. Inclusive after which Date no more Deliveries could be admitted the Contents of this Publication being especially Necessary for your Attention we beg leave to submit it inserted in this Place.

"Notice is hereby given, that the Hon'ble the Governor General and Council, understanding that several Merchants of this place who possess readymade Goods, are desirous of sending them to Europe in the Company's Ships have resolved to grant permission to load the same on the Winterton, subject to the following conditions.

1st. That the Goods be assigned over to Hon'ble Company to be sold at their Sales.

2d. That after the freight, the Government and Company's duties, together with the Charges, shipping landing & ca. are deducted from the proceeds, the Surplus shall be paid to the proprietor.

The 15th of the ensuing Month is the latest period fixed for sending away the Goods from the Company's Export Warehouse; accordingly the Office will continue to receive them until the 12th Inclusive, after which date no more deliveries can be received.

The Merchants desirous of sending home their goods on the above footing, will be pleased to apply at the Hon'ble Company's Export Warehouse for information of the size, agreeably to which to regulate the Package of the Bales, so that they may conform in this respect with the Bales sent home by the Company.

The object of this permission being the receipt of a supply of goods for enabling the loading of the Winterton, the Operation of it is of Course restricted to a sufficient quantity of Goods for that purpose.

By order of the President and  
Members of the Board of Trade

Commercial  
Council House  
Febry. 24th 1786.

Rd. Kennaway  
Secretary."

10th. Subsequent to issuing this Advertisement we received on the 4th Instant a Letter from the Governor General and Council enclosing Copy of an Address to them from several Merchants of the Settlement who engaged to send each a Quantity of Goods in the Winterton soliciting with other points the Prolongation of the time limited for the operation of the Advertisement in the Receipt of their Goods; at the same time the Hon'ble Board transmitted us their Resolutions thereon of which the first stated the Winterton should be detained for the receipt of Goods at the Export Warehouse to the 25th March these further resolutions they desired we would immediately notify to the Public by Advertisement in the Gazette.

11. On the same Day with the receipt of their Letter to this Effect we found from Official Information laid before us from the Export Warehouse provided this Prolongation of Time vizt. to the 25th March was allowed to Operate in the sole Receipt of Goods of the Company's immediate Investment and priviledged Silk a Sufficiency of Goods could be realized from these Resources by that Period for the Loading of the Winterton, this Information We forthwith proceeded to submit to the Hon'ble Board requesting the immediate Communication of their Sentiments whether the further Advertisement we would issue might not be withheld and even the recent Publication on the Subject be withdrawn that the whole of the Tonnage of this Ship might be occupied on the Company's

Account a Purpose so beneficial to the Company and which must be so desirable to your Hon'ble Court, a Statement for her Cargo completed from these Means was on this Day laid before us by the Export Warehouse Keeper.

12. In Explanation of our reference we observed we had not made it under the Impression that the Steps before taken with respect to the Winterton operated to prevent such Goods belonging to the Company as we might have before sent or be able to dispatch to her from having a preference in being laden as we considered this object exempt from the operation of the Advertisement in the permission granted to Individuals from the Loading of their Goods.

13. In Reply to this Address we received on the 4th Instant a Letter from the Governor General and Council in which they stated that having pledged the Faith of Government to the Merchants of the Settlement and having further in Consideration of the Representations of the Persons who engaged to send Goods on the Winterton extended the Period for her Dispatch they could not alter their former Resolutions nor break their Engagements with the Merchants of this place, should we have already Dispatched Goods to the Winterton in Addition to her Salt Petre and Redwood they observed they did not think it necessary to order them back but desired we would not send any more as it was their Determination not to load any Goods on Account of the Company that would detain their Ships after the Charter Party Period.

14. Having Submitted the Advertisement of the 24th February in the Preceeding Part of this Letter your Hon'ble Court will from the Persual of it from [form]Judgement how far the Faith of Government as stated by the Hon'ble Board is pledged to the Merchants in that publication for Ourselves if the Pledge to which they allude is deduced from that Document we cannot, but be of opinion the Conditions it contains do not extend to constitute such an Obligation.

15. When we received this Letter from the Hon'ble Board, two Sloops were already laden with Goods for the Winterton, with which they lay ready to proceed to the Ship but in Consequence of its Contents we have Caused the Goods to be relanded, accordingly the Winterton is left free, exclusive of her Redwood and Saltpetre Shipped on the Company's Account, for the Sole Reception of Goods from Individuals for effecting her Loading in Pursuance of the Permission granted them for this purpose.

16. Agreeably to the request of the Hon'ble Board we have since issued an Advertisement announcing their Subsequent Resolutions with the Exception of the third in which they stated an equal Retrenchment should be made from each Subscription if such an Amount of Goods should be received at the Warehouse as to prevent the Winterton from taking on Board the whole Quantity Subscribed. In this Exception we were Governed by the Consideration that to admit of a Conformity with the Resolution, none of the Goods would be sent for Shipping before the 25th March but the Whole would be Necessarily reserved for eventual Retrenchment in the Manner

Abovementioned by which m[ean]s the dispatch of the Winterton would be extremely retarded and the wish the Hon'ble Board had themselves expressed for her to be laden in time to sail in all March would be certainly preventing from taking Effect deeming the Contents of this further Advertisement also essential for your Information we do ourselves the honor to Submit it inserted in this Place.

"Notice is hereby given that the following Resolutions have been passed in Addition to those under date the 24th Ultimo published in the Gazette Extraordinary of the 25th following, for giving permission to the Merchants desirous of it to load their Goods on the Winterton.

1st. That the Winterton shall be detained for the receipt of Goods at the Export Warehouse to the 25th March instant.

2d. It continues recommended to the Merchants to send to the Warehouse to ascertain the usual size of Bales and packages, laden on the Company's Ships, and to conform thereto as nearly as possible, but the Goods offered shall not be objected to on Account of any deviation in these particulars.

3rd. That Registers or Certificates, in Triplicate be granted to the Merchants whose goods shall be shipped in the Winterton, to ascertain their property in Europe in the same Manner as they are given for Raw Silk sent home by Individuals.

Commercial Council-House,

March 3d. 1786.

By order of the President &  
Members of the Bd. of Trade

(Signed) Rd. Kennaway.

Secretary."

17. By the ensuing Dispatch of the Winterton we propose to resume our Communication upon this Subject, meantime we conclude this address with expressing our hope that our Proceedings having been solely actuated by regard for your Interests may be honored with your Approbation.

We are with Respect

Fort William

Hon'ble Sirs

Board of Trade

the 7th March 1786.

Your faithful humble Servants.

Exd. WD

[Endorsement]

General Letter from the Board of Trade to the Hon'ble  
the Court of Directors Dated 7 March Pr. Dublin.

## IV

## LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 1786

*The Winterton fully loaded—Killican's death and consequent legal difficulties regarding draft issued to him—Henry Walter, a Member of Board of Trade, to be sent to England on account of insanity—allowances of Blaquier, Superintendent of Cloth Investment.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Para. 1. We submit by this Conveyance Duplicate of our last Address to your Hon'ble Court of the 7th Instant by the Dublin and this Department since that Date, agreeable to the Order of which in our Proceedings, the Detail relative to loading the Winterton first presents itself to be resumed.

2. In our Dispatch by the Dublin our Communication thereon closes with acquainting you We issued agreeably to the Request of the honorable the Governor General and Council, after a Representation which We thought necessary to lay before them on that Occasion, a second Advertizement announcing certain Resolution of the Board passed in Pursuance of an Address they received from several Merchants of the Settlement who engaged to send each a Quantity of Goods on the Winterton the first of which Resolutions we observed expressed the Winterton should be detained for the Receipt of Goods at the Export Warehouse to the 25th March.

3. Our Address to your Hon'ble Court by the Dublin having been sent in as usual to the Governor General & Council for Transmission by that Ship We received under Date the 8th Instant a Letter from the Hon'ble Board to this Effect that Observing in the 16 Paragraph of our said Address, we had misconceived their Intentions about the Dispatch of the Winterton, and understanding from the proper Authority in such Cases, it would be necessary to have her finally dispatched by the 25th March so as to get out on the Springs of the full Moon, they therefore desired we would immediately give Notice to the Merchants who were to send Goods by this Conveyance, that these Goods must be at the Export Warehouse in Time to enable us to make the necessary Arrangements respecting the Quantity each Merchant would be allowed to embark, so as to have the whole laden & the Winterton dispatched by the 25th Instant.

4. Having recited the Resolution of the Hon'ble Board relative to detaining the Winterton on the application from the Merchants, in the terms of their Communication of it to us, we decline to offer any Remark upon their observation of our having misconceived their Intentions concerning her dispatch we immediately proceeded to issue on this subject the Publication we submit to your Notice in this Place.

"Notice is hereby given, to the Merchants who are to send Goods by the Winterton, in pursuance of the advertisements containing permission for that purpose, Published respectively on the 24th Ultimo and 3d. Instant, that the Goods must be at the Export Warehouse by the 15th Instant, so as to be in time to enable the Officers of that Department to make the necessary arrangements, in order to have the whole laden & the Winterton dispatched, by the 25th Instant."

5. On the 10th Instant a Report was laid before us from the Export Ware House that Goods fully Sufficient to Complete the Wintertons Cargo (comprehending the Raw Silk and Indigo previously permitted to be loaded on the Company's Ships) were then received & rather more than was necessary for that purpose, in Consequence of the Tenders of the Goods, having within a few Days preceding been made to a very large amount, and coming in together into the Godowns, rendered it impracticable for the Office to ascertain at the Time their exact Tonnage.

6. On this Report it appeared immediately necessary to us that the Settlement should be informed no more Goods would be received to be laden on the Winterton, to which Effect We accordingly caused the following Advertisement to be published and submit the same in this Place as completing the Publications issued in this Transaction We also immediately acquainted the Governor General & Council of the Report that had been made to us & the step we had taken in Consequence.

"Notice is hereby given to the Merchants of the Settlement that a Quantity of Goods Sufficient to complete the loading of the Winterton, having been received to this date at the Hon'ble Company's Export Warehouse, the receipt of their goods in Pursuance of the respective Advertisements is accordingly discontinued at that Office."

7. Two Bales of Coarse Goods of your Investment having been returned from the Deptford on account of having received some Soil in the Package without on board the Sloop in the Way down the River but no inward Stain of any kind to the Cloths, we have permitted them to be put on board the Winterton as taking up little Room & rendering the actual Exports consonant to the Invoices, the Bales being marked & numbered as follows vizt.

No. 22.1 Bale SCOSL.....	100 Pieces
243.1 Do. Gurr.....	70 Do.

The Winterton is accordingly laden on your Account agreeably to the accompanying Invoices as follows.

One of the Investment 1783/4 Crs.	39,000 - -
One of the Investment 1784/5	41,960 - -
CRs	<hr/> 80,960 - -

8. We conclude in this Place the Detail respecting the Loading the Winterton and thereon beg leave to repeat our hope that our Conduct in this Transaction may be honored with your Approbation, as well

with Reference to our Representation to the Governor General & Council, on being informed of their Resolution for detaining her for the Receipt of Goods at the Export Warehouse to the 25th March for the whole of her Chartered Tonnage to be occupied in the usual Manner on your Account as (our Representation for the Reasons they assigned not obtaining the Honorable Boards acquiescence) in our subsequent measures in conformity with their Resolutions.

9. In our General Letter by your Ship the Rodney under Date the 31st December 1785 We informed you of the Demise of Mr. Killican many years a Contractor engaged in the Provision of the Companys Investment, and Agent with our Board for Mr. Law the Chief of the Factory at Dacca, in the same Letter stating the Measures we had pursued to the Date of our said Address, in order to obviate in the Effects of that Event any Loss or Disappointment to the Company and we concluded the Relation of these Circumstances with the Assurance that our most strenuous & incessant Endeavors should continue to be exerted to the same End.

10. By the ensuing Dispatch of your Ship the Deptford under Date the 24th Ultimo We again address'd you on the same subject but in general Terms, referring you for particular Information to our Proceedings where the Transactions were recorded, since that Period the progress which has obtained in this Business requires us to resume our Communication thereon, in order to which we request to recall your Attention to the Detail respecting it in our Address by the Rodney.

11. In Pursuance of the Opinion of Mr. Davies adverted to in the 32d Para of that Address Mr. Law having deputed Mr. Potinger his Assistant to the Presidency with full Powers to act in his Affairs Mr. Potinger proceeded to cause an Action of Trover to be instituted against Mr. Mathew Mendes, one of the Holders of the Drafts, issued to Mr. Killican as Agent with our Board for Mr. Law on Account of his Advances for your Investment at Dacca and converted by Mr. Killican to his own use by the unauthorised Endorsement of Attorney for Mr. Law notwithstanding his Province as such being restricted by that Gentleman to the Receipt of his Drafts from us and paying the same as Occasion offered into the Khalsa for Bills on the Revenue Chief of Dacca.

12. It is with Concern we proceed to acquaint you the Action of Trover, has been decided against Mr. Law, of this Issue Mr. Potinger informing us on the 13th Ultimo, at the same Time transmitted to us a Brief or Report of the Trial drawn by Mr. Laws Counsel, a Copy of this Report in Consideration of the Connexion of the Subject with your Concerns in Order to afford you the fullest Information in our Power thereon, We submit a Number in this Packet with this Observation that it appears to us to be clear, full, and accurate.

13. Mr. Laws Counsel having strongly Recommended an appeal of his Cause that Gentleman has in Consequence solicited our Assistance in this Measure, but with his Request to this Effect in Consideration of the decided unanimous judgement of the Supreme Court of Judicature therein, We have declined Compliance.

14. At the same time that We sincerely lament the unfortunate Loss to Mr. Law by the Breach of Trust in his Agent, as he is answerable through us, to the Company for the Amount of his Engagements, We shall duly hold him to the Observance of them to which Effect we renewed our peremptory Injunctions to Mr. Law in a Letter under Date the 7th Instant therein particularly requiring the Delivery of a Quantity of Goods we learnt by a Letter on that Subject from Mr. Potinger of the 25th January last to be ready for Dispatch but which he stated, Mr. Laws Distresses were so great that he had not the means of forwarding; to assist him in Accomplishing this Purpose We have allowed him to make use of a special Credit upon us in part of the Proportion of two Annas which remained un-issued of our Original Allotment for his Provision of your Investment at Dacca of 1784/5. It gives us Satisfaction to add We have since received from Mr. Law a Letter containing Advice of a very considerable Dispatch of Goods from his Station on Account of his Engagements for 1784/5.

15. In this Stage We necessarily Close in this Address Our Advices respecting Mr. Law at the same time we take Occasion to renew our earnest Instances for your favorable Attention to the Situation of this Gentleman & to repeat our Sincere Testimony that it appears by no means to have proceeded from any misconduct on his Part, We beg leave further to express our Approbation of the Tenor of his Conduct under the Circumstances of this Misfortune.

16. In our Address by the Deptford we mentioned to you the case of Mr. Henry Walter one of the Members of your Board of Trade, & advised you of the Reference We had made thereon to the Governor General & Council who were pleased to direct the Surgeon-General to assemble a Meeting of three of the Senior Surgeons in Calcutta to examine into his Disorder & to report to them on the Means to be followed for his recovery, They also called on the Advocate General for his Opinion on the Propriety of appointing Trustees to Mr. Walter, The Result of the Examination of the Surgeons has been since communicated to us stating their Unanimous & decided Opinion of Mr. Walters Insanity, & that it will be conducive to his Recovery to send him to Europe by the first Opportunity, the Answer of the Advocate General has not yet been communicated to us.

17. We are to add that the Hon'ble Board have consented to allow Mr. Walter to go to Europe on Leave of Absence and in answer to an Application from us in his Behalf have also informed us that they have agreed to allow him the Salary of a Member of the Board of Trade payable in Bengal in the Event of his Proceeding thither for his Recovery, They have further recommended the necessary Steps be taken by his Friends to enable him to avail himself of the opportunity for this Purpose afforded by the Winterton on this Occasion we have applied to Mr. George Gardiner a Gentleman mentioned to us by our President as coming under this Description, whose Care we trust may ensure the Departure of Mr. Walter by this Ship now so near Sailing, Permit us in this Place to renew our Recommendation of the Situation of Mr. Walter to your Compassionate Consideration.

18. We beg leave to represent to your Consideration the narrow Circumstances to which your general Orders of Retrenchment of allowances have reduced Mr. Jacob Blaquiere the Superintendant of the Cloth Investment.

19. We pointed out to you in the year 1780 his Conduct at the Santipore Aurung and requested as a mark of your approbation thereof, that you would be pleased to appoint his Son William Coates Blaquiere, to be a Writer on this Establishment, this Request was Seconded by the Governor General and Council.

20. Since which Mr. Blaquiere has continued assiduous in the discharge of the Duties of his Appointment.

21. In the Year 1783/4 Mr. Blaquiere went thro' the laborious Task of Selecting a Purchase of Ready made Cloths for the loading of your Ships, then in want of Tonnage for their Dispatch, His unwearied and impartial Conduct on this Occasion, led us on the 30th March to resolve in Consideration of his Diligence and Exertion in the Duties of his Department to grant him an Addition to his Allowances of 324 Current Rupees Per Month and we directed our Secretary to inform Mr. Blaquiere of our Resolution to this effect.

22. Mr. Blaquiere then drew an Allowance of Current Rupees 1107.5.4 per Month & he now stands reduced to C. Rs. 533.5.4.. payable in Certificates which are at a Considerable discount.

23. We beg Leave further to observe that Mr. Blaquiere is constantly Assiduous in pointing out those Improvements in the Fabrick, Assortment, and dressing of the Cloths of your Investments, which we have had the pleasure to find have been generally Noticed and highly Commended by the Buyers at your Sales, as appears by the 18th Paragraph of your General Letter, dated the 11th February 1785 received Per Dutton.

24. We therefore hope that you will allow us to grant Mr. Blaquiere such an Increase of Appointment, as you may Judge adequate to the length of his Services, and the Fidelity with which he hath performed them.

25. We herewith submit the Continuation of the Broken set of our Proceedings with Index and Appendix from the 24th February to 1st March 1786 inclusive

We are & ca.

Fort William

Board of Trade the 18th March 1786.

First Postscript.

In Pursuance of the Intimation, contained in the 4th Paragraph of our Address to your Honorable Court of the 24th February by the Deptford; Having issued in Advertisement of that Date for inviting Proposals of Contract for your Investment of 1786/7, We submit Copies of that Publication; of a Letter, bearing Date the 13th Instant, and its Enclosure, received therein from the Governor General and Council, and of our Reply under Date the 14th Instant, in a separate

Number of this Packet; & beg leave to solicit your particular Consideration of their respective Contents.

the 20th March 1786.

Second Postscript.

As in Cases of controverted Points with the Governor General & Council Comments may be made on our Proceedings. We are induced in a second Postscript to our Address by this Ship in Consequence of our Proceedings and Correspondence with the Honorable Board Concerning Your Investment of 1786/7 to insert the Underwritten Para' from Your Commands of 16th April 1777 pointing Out the Rule to be Observed on such Occasion.

"We think it highly reasonable that the Board of Trade as urged in their Letter to us of 9th May 1775, should have Copies of all Remarks, representations or other Papers Relative to their Conduct, which may from time to time be transmitted to England by the Governor General and Council. We therefore direct that they be furnished early with all such Papers, so as to be enabled to make those timely and necessary Remarks which may be requisite for their Own Justification or our information."

Accordingly we confide in the Justice of your Hon'ble Court that the Impression of any remarks of this nature may eventually remain suspended until they can be collectively considered with our Observations in Answer, When by obtaining the Communication of the necessary Papers we may be able to submit the same.

The 23rd March 1786.

Exd. A Welland.

# V

## LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1786

### SATISFACTORY INVESTMENT

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble. the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

We have already addressed your Hon'ble Court by the Ship the Winterton under date the 18th Instant to which  
 Para 1st. we have added two Postscripts of the 20th and 23d.  
 P Winterton Instant the detention of the Packet now affords us the Opportunity of giving you the further satisfactory Information, that We had Yesterday the 24th Instant in Your Export Warehouse a Balance of Goods including Salt Petre to the amount of C. Rs. (19,50,000) Nineteen Lacs fifty thousand.

2. The greater part of the above-stated Balance has been collected in the Course of the last and present Month by the Industry of your Chiefs, Residents and Contractors who upon our repeated & peremptory requisitions have strenuously exerted their endeavours for the realization of your Investment.

Fort William  
 Board of Trade the 25th March 1786  
 Exd. A. Welland

We are & ca.

## NOTES











